

"Dear Friends"

The Civil War Letters and Diary of
CHARLES EDWIN CORT

Compiled and Edited with Commentaries

by

HELYN W. TOMLINSON

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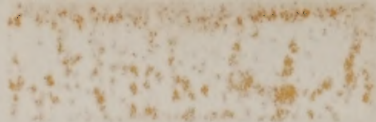


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Cort, Charles Edwin, 1841-
1903.
"Dear friends"

To
Ruth Thomas Burns
from
an old friend
and schoolmate
Jane Cort Platt
Nov 14, 1962,

I think, tho I'm not sure,
that Dad' was in Co. G-52"
Ill. Infantry.



"DEAR FRIENDS"

THE CIVIL WAR LETTERS AND DIARY

of

Charles Edwin Cort

Compiled and Edited with Commentaries

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Helyn W. Tomlinson

"DEAR FRIENDS"

THE CIVIL WAR LETTERS AND DIARY

of

General and Colonel William H. Tomlinson

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INTRODUCTION

My husband, Arthur Cort Tomlinson, and I have always considered the Civil War period the most interesting chapter in American history and a large part of our library is filled with books about that war. We knew that his maternal grandfather, Charles Edwin Cort, had fought in several battles but our knowledge of his part in the war went little beyond that.

With the discovery of an old tin box of family papers by Jane Mary Platt, one of Mr. Cort's two surviving daughters, we found ourselves in possession of an almost complete collection of his letters to his family in Illinois. From scattered family sources we gathered together the diaries he had kept and this book combines the two to tell the story of his army experiences.

The letters have been included in their entirety but only such diary entries were used as added to the knowledge of his movements. Punctuation and paragraphing were changed when they helped to clarify meaning but the spelling and capitalization (or lack of it) have been left as found in the originals.

There were gaps caused by missing or incomplete letters, as at Chickamauga and Chattanooga and during the Carolina campaign. The diaries were often in pencil and the first was badly rubbed and in a few places actually indecipherable. Skirmishes and engagements have been identified in the footnotes whenever possible.

Mr. Cort was mustered in as fourth corporal at Rockford, Illinois, on September 4, 1862, with the 92nd Ill. Vol. Infantry Regiment. After serving in Kentucky and Tennessee, his regiment became a part of the Army of the Cumberland in February, 1863. In July, 1863, the regiment was mounted and attached to Wilder's

Mounted Brigade until December of that same year, then served with the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, Cavalry Corps, Army of the Cumberland. In April, 1864, they were attached to Kilpatrick's Cavalry Corp and became an important part of Sherman's march from Atlanta to the sea and then through the Carolinas. During his years of service, Mr. Cort advanced in rank to first sergeant.

Many of their expeditions were scouting and feeling out the enemy positions and strength. As such, their military significance seemed to the men involved of much more importance than the results warranted, i.e. the Kilpatrick raid around besieged Atlanta.

Picketing, guarding river fords, railroad bridges and trains, foraging for food, such were the jobs assigned to the mounted infantry. They were often held in reserve until needed because they could be moved speedily to a vulnerable spot, then dismounted to fight as infantry. Frequently, under battle conditions, they spent more time being shifted to weak points in the line than in actual fighting.

Identification of skirmishes, engagements and battles has been accomplished mainly through reference to Dyer's "Compendium of the War of the Rebellion," 3 volumes. Other references used were "Memoirs of General William T. Sherman;" "Battles and Leaders of the Civil War," Vol. I through IV; "Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant;" "The Civil War Dictionary," Boatner; "Sherman's March Through the Carolinas," Barrett; and "The Official Atlas of the Civil War." I am indebted to LaVonne Schulz for map sketching, to Owen Cort for the loan of diaries in his possession and to Helen Cort Tomlinson for the use of the Cort genealogy and other assistance.

My special thanks to Aunt Jane and to Arthur, whose encouragement and help have made this book possible.

Helyn W. Tomlinson

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"DEAR FRIENDS" is not a story of high-level Civil War strategy. Our hero is a 21-year-old Illinois farm boy, Charles Edwin (Ed) Cort, who enlisted because he felt it was his duty to serve his country. "Duty" wasn't just a meaningless concept to him; it was a word he lived by.

Even at 21, his life had not been an easy one. His mother was a widow and he and his older brother, Joe, were running the farm and had been for seven years. The family had formerly lived in Monongahela City, Pennsylvania, and in 1855 his father, Jacob Cort, had gone to Lee County, Illinois, to look for a new home for his growing family. Where there he contracted malaria, returned to Pennsylvania in the fall of 1855, intending to move the family but became ill with typhus fever and died on October 13 of that year.

With the aid of the two older boys, the widowed mother moved her family to the new farm home in Lee County, Illinois. At home when Charles Edwin Cort enlisted in 1862 were his mother; his sister, Maggie, 16; and his three brothers: Joe, 24; Will, 12 and Arthur 10. Because of the family situation, Ed's formal schooling had been restricted to eighth grade, but his letters showed how important he believed a good education to be and how he hoped to provide it for his younger brothers and sister.

The family background shows deeply religious, well-informed men and women of better-than-average education with ministers and missionaries in abundance. Many were members of the Reformed Church, spending the Sabbath in worship, doing no cooking on that day and only the most necessary chores.

So, against this personal background, army service began for 21-year-old Charles Edwin Cort on August 27, 1862. His diary entries and first letter to his grandparents spell out the details.

CHAPTER I

FIRST DAYS IN THE ARMY

(Diary)

Lane¹, August 27, 1862

This is the day we are to leave Lane for Rockford. Stayed all night at Dr. Mc². Left Lane at 8 o'clock in waggon and after a very dusty ride we arrived at Rockford at 2½ O'clock. Co. all messed together. quarters in northwestern part of Camp.

Aug. 28

Spent my first night in camp very pleasantly. in morning helped to get breakfast, drilled and had a rather slim dinner. drilled in after noon, had very little rations for supper. 8 of us went to town and got a good supper for 20¢, went for a bathing in the evening. had rather poor bed but slept very well.

Aug. 29

We had Co. drill and were examined by the U. S. Surgen and all passed as fit for Service. had a good Squad drill in the afternoon. Some cows passed through camp and the boys caught them and milked them. feel tired tonight.

Sept. 1st

Rolled at 8 O'clock and the officers appointed the noncommissioned officers.

Sept. 2nd

Drilled as usual. In the afternoon went to town and sprained my foot on a large box.

1. Lane became the City of Rochelle, Illinois, in 1865.

2. Dr. John M. McCaughy.

Camp Fuller, Rockford, Il.
Sept. 4 1862

Dear Grandfather and Grandmother, it is one week yesterday since we arrived in Camp Fuller and I have as good health as I ever had in my life and am very well contented. We have good quarters now and good living. there has been plenty of visitors to see us and every one brings something and we dont have to draw all our rations. We expect a lot of people from Lane today with a dinner for us. We drill twice a day by Company two hours each time and two or three times by squad. my foot stands it first-rate.

I have passed through two examinations and first one all the company passed but yesterday the U S mustering officer was here and mustered us in and four of the Co were rejected. the doctor says I will stand it first rate. We expect to be mustered into the 92nd regiment this afternoon. I must stop a while for it is time to drill.

Saturday, Sept 6th

I did not get my letter finished on thursday on account of being mustered into the 92nd Reg in the afternoon. we are Co H. our Col is the old Major of the 11th and I think he is a good officer. We have our non-commissioned. John Nelson is Ordely. I am 4th Corporel. my duty now is to take care of the barracks and keep them clean and it is a prety conciderable of a job now for it has been raining ever since thursday night.

It stoped raining a couple of hours yesterday evening and all the troops in camp passed in review before Agt. Gen Fuller. there are 5 regs. in camp now, the 74, 97, 95, 96 and I do not know the number of the other one. we have not got our uniforms yet but expect to get them today and we will get our one months pay this afternoon.

when we were mustered into the 92nd Gen Fuller told us we were under marching orders but I dont think we will leave this camp for a week but we may be taken tomorrow or any time sooner or later. We are to get the money for our county bonus on next Tuesday or we can have the bond which draws 10 per cent intrest. I guess I will take the money. it is \$60.00. the pay master is not here that is to pay us our \$25.00 bounty and \$2.00 premium but is expected soon and I dont believe the regiment will leave untill it is all payed off.

there has been lots of Lane people here and there are some here yet. You must excuse this scribble for it is raining and that dark that I can hardley see to write. you can send this down to

our folks and let them see it. I recieved a letter from home yesterday. I would like to see them up here to see me although loggings are very scarce for women folks but we can accomodate all the men that can come. give my love to all the neighbours and Friends.

C. E. Cort
Sept. 7 Sabbath

(Diary)

We were paid our 13.00 today. in the afternoon we went to preaching. the text was the parable of the seven virgins.

8th

We drawed our uniforms today.

Sept. 9th, Tuesday

Jo³ and Maggie⁴, Clay & Ada Minier came to pay me a visit.

10th

Day pretty fine. the friends went home this afternoon. rained in the evening while we were on dress parade. rained until about 12 oclock.

11th

Had a hard drill this morning. rained at 11 oclock and recieved our county bounty this morning.

17th

Wendsday and Thursday Morning wet and damp. in the afternoon got a furlough for 49 hours to go home. Started at dark and after a hard and tegious ride arrived at Kill buck Creek at about 12 oclock and the creek was so high that the driver would not undertake to drive over it and so we had to stop at a farmers house untill morning and a good breakfast, then started on our journey and we arrived at Lane about 8 oclock. got Dr. Mc. team and a livery wagon and got home at 11 AM. found folks all well and glad to see me. Spent a very pleasant evening at home.

Sept. 19, 1862. Friday

Got on a horse and took a ride around the plantation. Ate dinner at grandfathers. at dark took leave of friends and once more started for camp. Stoped and spent the evening at Mr. C. N. Reynolds.

Camp Fuller, Sept. 24

Dear Friends,

I have been waiting for C. N. Reynolds to go home for to send a few lines with him but he is paying us a good visit and has not started yet. He expects to go tomorrow and I will send this

3. His older brother, Joseph Turney Cort.
4. His 16 year old sister, Margaret Jane Cort.

with him. We had a very pleasant but slow ride to Camp from Lane and it was 2 oclock before we arrived here. The paymaster has not come yet although it is reported he will be here every day. I came here with Wm. Hultzy in a four horse team.

We have drill regularly every since I came back. I have learned more drill since I came back than I had done all the time before. The reg. went to town today to escort a party of excursionist to camp. They were from Freeport & Polo. Floyd Gay said he seen another near Linnville and some more weomen. He did not know who they were. He gave Croff⁵ and I an apple apiece that was sent to us.

Croff is very well, in fact he is better than I ever saw him. There goes the taps for to put out the lights and I must stop.

From your affectionate son and brother, C. E. Cort

(Diary)

Sept 25 Day Clear and warm. Croff and I went to town to get our pictures taken.

26 Everything passes off as usual. the 74 got marching orders and are to leave on Sunday the 28.

27 Day fine. went to town to get the pictures but was disipointed. they will not be done untill next Tuesday.

28 Was on guard patrol. the 74 left for Dixe today. I got a pass from the officer of the day to go to town and see them.

Squad No. 2, 22 Members

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. E. Pettit, Capt. | 1. J. F. Nettleton |
| 2. C. E. Cort ✓ | 2. D. C. Hastings |
| 3. J. S. Lee | 3. Perrin Lyon |
| 4. D. C. Whitehead | 4. H. S. Millard |
| 5. S. L. Bailey | |
| 6. C. B. Bowles | E. Pettit, Commissary of Squad |
| 7. S. Reynolds | Wm. Havlin, Sup. Water and wood |
| 8. Wm. Havlin | John Farnham, T. Shaffer, David |
| 9. John Farnham | Boyle, C. E. Thayre, L. D. Herinton, |
| 10. Robert Reeves | S. L. Bailey, D. C. Whitehead |
| 11. Wade Herinton | Assistants |
| 12. L. D. Herinton | |
| 13. David Boyle | Wade Herinton, tent sup |
| 14. John Brown | J. S. Lee, C. E. Cort, John Brown, |
| 15. Ed Thayre | C. B. Bowles, Assistants |
| 16. Judson Willis ✓ | |
| 17. E. Tilton | Judson Willis, Towel tender |
| 18. Thomas Shaffer | John Polock, Cook |

5. Crawford B. Bowles.

the day was very warm and the boys suffered considerably from heat.

Camp Fuller, Rockford

Oct 4th, 1862

Dear Friends,

you will see by the heading of this letter that we are still in Camp Fuller yet. On last Thursday we recieved orders to march as soon as we were paid off but we are not paid yet and the pay master has not come yet although rumor has had him here for four or five days.

We have all our Equipments except our tents. our equipments consists of gun belt, cap box, bayonet scabbard, cartridge box, knapsack haversack and canteen whitch is harness enough for one man.

The weather has been very wet this week. we could not drill for two or three days. I have been on patrol guard twice this week and once on special duty for the co. the reason was that the Col gave about 80 furloughs to the Co.

patrole duty is not hard. the Corporals have nothing to do on it unless they go to town to arrest straglers. The special Co. duty was to arrest Sergt. Hendricks for cabbaging Co. H's provisions and so on. there had been ample proof of his guilt but no property had been found on him and it was asertained that he had Some thing taking home with him. he was on his road home with a furlough and I was ordered to take three men and stop him on the bridge as he was on the way. we halted him and searched the wagon and found a paper of tea about him. he said he bought it in town and I took him to the Store where he said he bought it and the store keeper said he did (not) sell it to him and that he had none of that kind of tea. We marched him back to Camp and delivered him over to the Capt. he was let off by resigning his office.

There is a great deal of dissatisfaction with the Capt. he so bigoted that he will not learn any thing and he cannot drill half as good as the men and the other commissioned officers are not much better. the Capt will not let Nelson drill the Company when never he can help it. My opinion confidentialy is that he will not be the capt. longe as the Col. is watching him pretty close and whenever he is out of the way Nelson will come in as captain as all the (men) like him. the captain cannot command the attention of the Co any more. I was very much decieved in him. I thought that he was a good military man. Prehaps he is in Scott but he is not in Hardee.⁶

5. "Hardee's Tactics" a manual of infantry drill and tactics compiled by W. J. Hardee who later served in the Confederate army.

Corporal Petitt got married on last Thursday night and on Friday evening he had a supper at a private house and envited the Regtimal officers and the Co. officers and about a dozen of the men and we had a very nice time although it was very short betwene batalion drill and dress parade. C. N. Reynolds is here and he can tell you all about it and Hendricks.

We have a great many visitors today as it got out that we were going tomorrow. The 74 left last Sabbath but I supose you hurd of it. Mr. Minier is here. he came this afternoon. I could not get any more gloves for 7 shillings and I did not bye any for Jo. It is getting late and the taps will soon beat for lights out. So good bye from your affectionate Son and brother.

C. E. Cort

P. S. our destination is suposed to be Louisville, Ky.

(Diary)

Oct. 5 Went to Rockford to church today and heard a good sermon from the 4 commandments. In the afternoon the chaplain preached on the camp ground.

7th The pay master is here and has paid us our Bounty \$27.00 and we are to leave on friday.

9th Went to town today. We recieved 10 rounds of cartridges and went out and tried our guns. in the afternoon we packed our knapsacks.

Camp Fuller, Rockford, Oct. 9th

Dear Friends,

We are at last paid off and are to leave here on tomorrow morning at 7 Oclock. all our things are packed up. As to our destination I don't know anything about it although there has been considerable specalation about it. Some say to St. Louis, some to Louisville and others somewhere else.

The weather has been very wet here and it is very muddy. We have not drilled much for the last week but as it is geting late I will stop tonight.

Friday morning 3½ Oclock

We are up and geting redy to start. C. N. Reynolds is here and he is going to take my things along with him. Enclosed you will find \$19.00 and also my Photograph. I will write soon again as I must close now and eat my breakfast. I got Jo a pair of gloves yesterday and will send them in the bundle. We carry rashions along with us for three days.

From your son and brother,

C. E. Cort

Camp near Covington, Ky, Oct. 12, 1862

Dear Friends,

We are at last in the land of Rebledom with traitors around us. We left Rockford about 8½ oclock and after a Slow but pleasant trip arrived at Chicago about 3 o'clock and left there a little after dark and went to Michigan City and stoped there an hour or two and then the Engines were put on the other end of the train and the boys thought that we were going back to Chicago but the road onley went this way (Chicago—M. City).

we started and run 8 miles and then the conductor found that some one had taken the coupling pin out of the place and the two last cars were left and the train was stoped and an engine went back and got them. I slept the rest of the night. In the morning when I awoke I found that we were in the swamp of Indiania where nobody lived. at last we stoped at Francesville and stayed there an hour and run around town and got the people out of bed and them that used it got whiskey. that was all that was to be found.

We still travled on through the swamps until 9 when we came to where the country was a little better and saw the battle ground of Tipacano⁷ on the Wabash river. it is fenced by the government and nice. went on for three miles and stoped. when we all got out to see what was the mater and found the bridge across the Wabash was very bad, we all walked across and run around the country for 4 hours until the train went back to the battle ground an got the engines in the rear of the train and pushed them (the cars) across as the bridge was to weak to bear the engines and there was one on the other side which pulled us 3 miles to Lafayette where we got two engines and the train was divided and we went on faster.

On the whole I think that what I saw of Indiana it is a poor state, as timber or nothing else was good. At Lafayette we got rations of hard crackers, boiled ham and chees. We arrived at Cincinati Sabbath morning at day light and at sun-up took up our line of march and crossed the Ohio on a pontoon brige to Covington, Ky. and marched 3 miles and encamped on a bluff 80 rods from the Licking river.

It has been very dry here and the rivers are low. We are to get our teams and tents here. the officers got theirs yesterday and we are to get ours to day. It rained a little last night but some of

7. Tippecanoe, opening skirmish of the War of 1812, U. S. forces under Wm. Henry Harrison against Indians friendly to the British.

us knowed enough to be prepared for it and a tent fire that kept us dry.

The country is very hilly around here and has been fortified. there are large canon placed all arround. the rebles were within 2 miles of this a few days ago but they have scadadled. There is sayed to be 40,000 rebles 50 miles from here and within a circle of 25 miles, 125,000 union troops. Our regt is encamped by its self and has its own guard. We will properly (probably) leave here soon. The health of the company is pretty good, mine and Croff's espechaly. Croff was on guard last night.

My ankle is entirely well now and has not troubled me for a long time. Write soon and direct to Camp near Covington, Ky, 92nd Ill. Vol, Co. H, Care of Capt. Brice.

C. E. Cort

Enclosed is a confederate note.

I will write again soon.

(Diary)

Oct. 13 Day warm. every thing passed off as usual.

14 Went to Cincinatti and travled all over the principle part of the city. bought a gum blanket for \$3.25.

Oct. 18th, 1862

Camp near Covington, Ky.

Dear Friends,

I sit down for the purpose of informing you of my welfare and my whereabouts. I am enjoying very good health and all the boys are in the same condition with a very few exceptions. We are still in the same camp but have had marching orders and will leave tomorrow morning unless we recieve other orders. Our destination is not known for certain but is suposed to be Lexington, Ky. and from there to Cumberland gap.

We have our tents. They are the bell tent and 18 men have to be in one and they are pretty full when all are in. We have got a good board floor in ours. we carried them about one mile from the fortifications where they were used or had been used for barrack. The weather is still very dry and when the whole regt. is on the double quick it makes the dust fly. the Licking river is almost dry and the Ohio is also very low.

I was over in Cincinnati last Wednesday and saw two regements, the 19th Ky & the 33rd Indiana that were driven from Cumberland Gap wher they had been for 5 or 6 months. they look pretty hard and have had very hard times. There are 10 or 12 Regt's that have recieved marching orders and are going the same time that we are.

The 96th Ill. are here within three miles of us. they are one of the Camp Fuller Regts and they say the 95th arrived this afternoon. The men appear to be all gone from this part of country and the weomen do all the work and business. there are a great many derserted houses. in fact, all the good houses in this vicinity are with out occupants.

Saturday morning, Oct. 18

I was called from my letter to ricieve 40 rounds of cartridges. The orders this morning are to cook two days rations and be ready to march by 2 Oclock PM. We have a pretty heavy load to carry. my knapsack weighs 25 lbs, my gun 10 lbs 6 oz and the 40 rounds about 3½ lbs and then haversack and canteen belt and canteen. We do not know wheather we are going on foot or by cars or steamboat. We got another pair of pants sky blue and that makes two suits compleat. I must stop and get my rations. I will write soon again if we stop. Good bye

C. E. Cort

Direct as usual to Covington, Ky, 92nd regt, Co. H. care of Col. Smith D. Atkins.

Enclosed is that song of Mrs. W.



Charles Edwin Cort
September, 1862

Chapter II

THE HARDEST PART OF A SOLDIER'S LIFE

Battle of Mill Springs Stationery
Falmouth, Ky, Oct. 22, 1862

Dear Friends,

I have had some experiance in the hardest part of a soldiers life and I will endeavor to tell you something about it. In my last letter I told you that we were to march or be ready to at 2 P.M. so we were all ready but did not start until 5, when we marched to Covington very slow and got on the Lexington Pike and began to climb the river hill when we were halted and rested about 1 mile from town Where the Col. though we would encamp but he re-ieved orders to report at Florance that night.

When the command was given to fall in and off we started at a very fast walk and marched to the fairgrounds of Florance and camped for the night or what was left of it having marched 9 miles at a very fast walk and onley rested three times. there was a good many of the company about done up. to tell the truth, we were all tired and slept well on the ground without tents.

the road was very dusty. we could not see ten feet ahead. in the morning we were started at 6 and kept jogging along until noon when we stoped and had some coffee where all the company except about 20 give out so that they put thir knapsacks on the wagons. Croff¹ hurt his knee and put his knapsack on the wagon. Dud²

1. Crawford B. Bowles.

2. Dudley C. Whitehead.

and I were the onley ones from our part that carried ours. the Herintons were in the rear guard.

we rested 1½ hours and started. we passed through Florance, Rosendale & Crittenden and encamped one mile south of the town and I tell you we were a tired set of boys, having marched 20 miles. The Col. got orders to turn off the pike and report at this place and for all the men that could to carry their knapsacks, as the road was too rough for the teams to haul a heavy load. And I tell you there was a good many wry faces.

We marched over the roughest country that I ever saw but there was a good many little apples that we confiscated and some of the boys went into the cellar of a secessionist and got a lot of canned peaches. We did not stop to have a regular dinner but took a lunch. in the evening we encamped on a hill between two creeks. we used one to wash in and the other to drink as all the springs dried up.

we marched 16 miles and were pretty sore footed but I felt first rate after I got my pack off my back. we marched 8 miles to Falmouth yesterday where we arrived at 11 PM and pitched our tents and after enquiry found that we were onley 24 miles from Covington by rail but the road was all tore up by the secess and was not fixed yet and we had marched over 50 miles to get here. Some of the largest and stoutest men were the first to give out while the small ones stuck to it but I find that it is not the phisical strength but the determination that carrys one through a long march.

Falmouth is situated in a sort of a plain with the camp on the west side of it. The town I have never been in yet but I guess it is small. there are 20 thousand here. one Brigade left this morning with all the cavelry. We are to leave tomorrow for Cinthiana 20 miles from here.

The 45 Ohio is here. it (is) the 77th rorganised and officered over. All the boys from Reynolds are in good health and spirit except Sim.³ he has a touch of the ague. Give my love to Grandfather and Grandmother and all Friends, from your Son and Brother.

C. E. Cort

I have not recieved a letter from home since I left Rockford. Write soon. My ankle never trouble a bit on the march.

3. Sim Reynolds.

Oct. 27, 1862

Camp three miles south of Paris,
Bourbon Co.

Written on special stationery showing a Desperate Bayonet Charge
at Battle of Winchester, March 23, led by Gen. Tyler.

Dear Friends,

After looking in vain for a letter from home or somewhere else I sit down to scratch you a few lines. The boys are all well that are from that neighborhood except Sim. He has the ague. Robert Reeves is in the hospitle at Cincinatti and also one other man from the Co. The rest are in their usual health. The health of the Regt is better than most others. We are in a very healthy country. We did not leave Falmouth the next day after I wrote as we expected.

We left the 24th at 7 AM and took the lead of nine other regts and marched fast all day over the roughest country that I ever saw and with scarsely any water and encamped early in the evening on the Licking river near Berry Station having march 20 miles.

We were all tired, pitched our tents, had some warm coffee and slept sound. Next morning got up and found the other Regts had got alonge during the night. They say the 92nd is the best Regt to march they ever saw for a new one. there was some 300 of the 115 Ill. gave out and not a half a dozen of ours.

On the 25 we marched to Cynthia 9 miles distant and encamped west of the town on the Licking river. It was raining a little in the evening and at nine it was Snowing and chilly. When we got up in the morning, 26th, found over four (4) inches of snow on the ground. thought prehaps we would not march that day as it was Sabbath but got orders to be ready to go at 10 AM as we were to be in the rear but did not over 2 miles before 1 PM on account of the train of the 96th. There was about 2 inches of mud on the road, got on the pike, found it better traveling.

The country is a good deal better and we see very fine farmes. marched 14 miles and camped near Paris where we arrived after dark. Stacked armes when the Col. told us to hurry and get some wood that was about 80 rods from camp and away we run. when we got back each squad began to look for straw and run over a half mile and got enough to cover the tent 6 inches. slept sound and warm. in the morning found everything froze hard as a brick.

Croff and I each have a gum blanket and we spread one on the ground and have two wool blankets and one gum one on top and we sleep as warm as pigs. The inhabitants say that the snow

was deeper than it had been for three years.

We passed through Paris this morning. it is the largest town I have seen in Ky yet and appears to be mostly union. We were on our road to Lexington but when we got here we found that the other Regts had stopped and we camped too, what for I don't know. My paper is done and I must close. Good by until next.

C. E. Cort

We are 12 miles from Lexington. I must get some foolscap paper to write on as this is too small. It is all that I can get here.

Oct. 30th, 1862

Camp 6 miles from Winchester

Dear Friends,

I have at last received a letter from home. It is the first one that I have received since I left Rockford. I had begun to think that you were all sick or something else.

We left the camp near Paris, where I wrote, next morning, the 28th, and marched to Lexington, 12 miles, and then had to march 3 or 4 miles before we got to a camp and we did not get anything to eat until dark. Some of the boys were very hungry. I was not. I can stand hunger better than the most of the boys. next morning I was just going to write when I was called on guard the first time since we left Rockford.

We got orders to march at 2 P.M. but they were countermanded until this morning when we started early and arrived in this camp at 5 this evening, having marched 17 miles. We are getting so that we can carry our knapsacks and march 18 or 20 miles as easy as we could 4 at first. I have carried my knapsack every day so far and stand it first rate. my feet got sore at first but are all right now. We have marched over 160 miles since we left Covington.

Lexington is a very pretty town of 12,000 inhabitants. The country around Lexington is as good as I have seen yet. the cattle are the finest I ever saw, Durhams and Devon, and very large and fat. The way that the people make watering places here is to dam up a ravine and stop the water. the soil is such that it will not soak away and water is pretty good. it is the kind that we use. it does not get a scum over it as it would in Ill.

The weather is very pleasant here now. it is pretty cold at night and fine day time. We all thought that we would stay at Lexington for a few days but the report came that there was some rebels at Mt. Sterling, 22 miles from here. the 92nd and some others, I do not know how many, were ordered to attend to them but I guess

that there are not any rebels within 50 miles of here and perhaps not in Ky. I tell you we would like to try them a clip.

we are going within five miles of Mt. Sterling but we do not know any thing two hours ahead. As soon as we stop again, I will write a long letter if we stay a day or so but if we keep marching I can't write much of a letter. the pen I have now is very poor and it (is) pretty dark as there is only two candles for Six to write.

I have the best health I ever had in my life and all the rest of the Reynolds Boys are the same Except Sim. he is in the hospital at Lexington now. I wish you would write often as I get very anxious to hear from you even if you do not get mine. I have written several lately and will write twice a week to you or Grandfathers. Write soon via Cincinnati, Co. H, 92nd Ill. Vol. from Ed Cort

It is getting late.

(Diary)

Oct. 30 Reveille Beat at 4 AM and we had our breakfast at 4½, things packed at 5. Started at 7 AM and marched through Lexington. marched on the pike running in a southeastern course and encamped near a pond 6 miles from Winchester and 12 miles from Lexington. In the evening there were some negroes came to camp and we had a sort of a show. the Major sang a song and the Col. danced a jig.

31 Day fine, a little warm. Struck tents at 7 and started. Reached Winchester at 11 AM. it is a town of about 1200 inhabitants. Passed through by Sections. Halted outside and then reinforced skirmishers as there was not any force ahead of us. travel slow and encamped on the bank of a small creek in Clark Co.

Nov. 1 Saturday Had a good start and marched through a fine country. Saw a large flock of Goats, about 50 in number. arrived at Mt. Sterling at noon. it is a town of 1500 inhabitants and very well built in Clark County, Ky. Passed through and turned South 2 miles and encamped on a good piece of ground for a camp. good water convenient. wrote a letter home to Will and Arth.

A little after dark the regt called on the Col. for a speech. he made one, also the Lieut Col. the major closed. Had a good many Ladies visitors this afternoon. the Kentucky ladies are not at all bashful and are easy to get acquainted with.

Nov. 2 Sabbath morning. day pleasant. Had Sunday morning inspection. everything passed off as usual. had turkey for dinner. In afternoon there was a good many visitors, both black and white. The (wind) got very high about 3½ PM, tents had to be well staked, flies flew in all directions.

Nov. 3 Everything passed off as usual. had battalion drill in afternoon.

Nov. 4 Morning cool. no Co. drill. There was an election for Congress in the Regt today. In afternoon there was a general inspection of Regt, passed in review before Col. Had a good deal of talk on the slavery question.

Nov. 5 Went out and helped get some wood for Squad. Sim got to camp this morning. he is a little better.

Nov. 7 This morning the first that I heard was the sad intel-agents that one of the guard shot himself accidentally at one oclock. he died at 6. he blong to Co B. The chaplain boy was buried also. We had no drill today. the Col. got set up so that he could get off.

Nov. 8 Morning coald. had co. drill in morning. Battalion drill in afternoon. after drill we stack arms and went to the funeral of the man that was killed.

Camp Dick Yates near Mt. Sterling, Ky.
November 10th, 1862

Dear Friends,

In looking over my book, I find I have not writen home since the 1st. I wrote to Grandfathers on the 5th so I supose you have heard from me. I am well and all the other Reynolds boys are also in good health, Sim excepted. He is still in the hospitle but is improving.

Last night the long roll was beat for the first time. We had went to bed and had lights out at the usual hour (8½ o'clock) and most of us were sleeping when we were sudenly aroused at 9½ o'clock by the long roll beating. Croff and Squire Bailey were over at a house close by camp writing and Dud and I were sleeping togather and we dressed in quick time and went out and formed in the Co.

Co. H was the first one in line of battle. It was just 4 minuts from the time of the first tap on the drum until the battalion was all formed and in line of battle.

The cause of the alarm was the firing of the pickets. This morning the word was that the pickets saw a lot of men and challenged and, recieving no answer, fired and then retreated behind a house close at hand when there was some more made their appearance and were also fired on.

We were kept in line for about an hour and then we stacked armes and went to our tents and slept with our accoutrements on with orders to be in line one hour before daylight with overcoats on. we were ready and waited until day light and there was no more alarm but occasional firing through the night. we had sent

reenforcements to the pickets at the first alarm. This morning all is the same as usual.

I had supposed that in being called out in the night I would have been very much excited but I was not. We had the fullest Co. that we have had since we left Rockford. Everything goes on about the same as it did at Rockford. We have about the same living, hard crackers, shoulder, beans, coffee, rice and occasionally fresh beef. We have got so that we can make the crackers pretty good by frying them.

We have got fire in our tent. We dig a trench and then cover it with stones and dirt and built sort of a chimney. it does pretty good. it freezes at night here. day time is pretty comfortable. we have no rain yet.

You wanted to know about the trouble in the company. all that was wrong was that we wanted another Capt. Brice⁴ is very good to the men but he has not the ability to command the Co. he wants to drill according to his old notions which does not suit the present times. and then he is so easily excited that I would not like to be under him in battle as he would not know what command to give and prehaps would be as likely to give the wrong command as the right one.

even on battalion drill now he gets wrong more than right but we know what to do and obey the Col's command without minding him if he is wrong. He done pretty well last night but was excited. The Drum Major says that Co. H can get out first without an officer to command them.

There was a petition got up at Covington to have the Capt removed and 85 signed it, including the noncommishioned officers. Every one of them signed it. We wanted him to resign but it was not presented as we left Covington but the capt was told all about it. it has all blown over now and he does some better but I think that he will resign some time soon.

Nelson will take his place as the Lewts are in favor of it and he is the most compitent. he is the best orderly in the Regt and will make a good capt. in fact he is the onley man that has the confidence of the company. keep this quiet as prehaps it (might) injure the capt if he should return. we all like him as a man pretty well.

My paper is done and I must close. Write often. Yours mutch-
ley,

C. E. Cort

Give my respect to all enquiring friends. Direct Co H, 92nd Regiment, Ill. Volunteers via Cincinnati, Col. Smith D. Atkins.

4. Captain James Brice.

Nov. 11 Was detailed for guard this morning. Am on guard at the house of a rebel. It is the first House that I have sat down in since we left Rockford. got a warm dinner and sat to a table. In the afternoon there was two ladies came on a visit and they were very sociable.

13 Got orders to be ready to march tomorrow morning.

14 Day fine. up early and began to pack up. at 7 AM every thing was in motion and the usual bonfires were lit. The scene on leaving an old camp place is beautiful. All the old boxes and barrels are put in a pile and set on fire. the men gather around and shout, teams hitched to wagons and teamsters loading. We started at 7 AM and marched through Mt Sterling and about four miles north of it.

the Col. rather varied to his word and order as he helped to hunt the niggers and he made the officer of the day hunt all negroes that were in camp without passes and turned them out.

Sabbath morning. Instead of the quiet of Sabbath this morning the order for the pack up and march, which direction I know not. we are now ready to go. everything packed. Started at 9 and marched 7 or 8 miles West toward Lexington and encamped on the same ground that we camped on on the 31 of October.

Camp four miles north of Mt. Sterling

Nov. 15, 1862

Dear Friends,

I once more sit down for the purpose of writing to you. I wrote last on the 10th. I recd yours of the 6th and was very glad to hear that you were all enjoying your usual health. And very sorry to hear of the death of my much esteemed friend, Mr. David Gilbert. the family have my heart felt sympathies for their affliction.

I am enjoying my usual good health and the most of the company are in the same condition. there are some coalds and diaraahs. Sim is better. he is out of the hospital but is very weak yet. We moved from Camp Dick Yates yesterday on account of water. the pond that we were using out off failed. we are about six miles north of the old camp. The water here is very poor and will not last long.

We are encamped on the side of a hill in a very pretty grove but I do not like the camp as well as the other. the water is in a large pond in the hollow and is what run off the hills in rainy time. there are two springs on the other side of the road. wheather they will amount to anything or not, I don't know but I guess we will not stay here very long until we move to another place for better water.

We have nothing to do except drill and guard duty and picket. The first thing in the morning is the revele and by the time the revele is done beating we have to be in line for roll call and guard detail. we have 13 men, 1 Sergt, 1 Corp, for guard every day and one or two men for fatigue duty and some times there are extra calls. the picket is taken from the guard by turnes.

The last time I was on guard I was corp. of the spring guard and the guard that was watching the old rebel that lived there. the spring was out side of the camp and the house was my head-quarters. I had six men. we had good living for 24 hours. the man was very clear when he knew he had to be. he had two Grand-daughters came to visit him in the afternoon. they were very sociable like all Ky. ladies are and good talkers but Secesh sympathisers. one of them was married and her husband was a capt. in the rebel army. The great word with all the Ky ladies that I have heard talk is mighty. every thing is mighty good or mighty bad. I reckon

I find that I have started to write on two sheets but I have no news to write and I guess will hardly fill them. I will tell you the regular duties of camp and you can see how much time we have. after roll call we have breakfast. then comes the sick call. it is my duty to find out who are sick and take them to the doctors tent at 8, guard mounting at 9, Company drill untill 11, dinner at noon. At 2 battalion drill until 4. at sunset dress parade and retreat is beat. At 8 tatoo and 8½ taps. the lights are all to be out at taps. there is roll call after tatoo and we have to all be in line every time the roll calls.

The Liewt Col is getting first rate in drill. he drills the Regt most of the time now. he studies hard and is a first rate officer as he is a very moral man an so pleasant. The Col. cant be beat and the Major is liked. The Adgt is the best officer for his age that I have seen. he is not 21 yet so you see we have good Regtnal officers.

The Col. thinks that the 92nd can do any thing that any other Regt. can. he says that it is as good a regt as ever the 11th was. He issued an order which I supose you will see as C.N.R.⁵has one. I could not get one or I would sent it home. you must read it. the men, some of them, thought from it and a speach that he made to us that he was going to let all the negroes that came into the lines and wanted to go along could go but the morning that we left Camp Yates he rode along the lines and saw some negroes in the ranks with uniforms on and guns.

5. C. N. Reynolds.

he called the officers to the front and made a speech. he sayed that he was not Col. of a negro Regt and the government had not armed them yet and that he thought that it was a disgrace to the regt. to have the negro ware the badge of honor of a soldier (the uniform an accoutrements) and he would not have it. he sayed he had orders from Gen. Granger not to alow any non-combatance to go along with the regts except officers servants and they had to have papers that they were such, wheather white or black so it onley alowed three to a Co.

Lieut. Dawson took the one we had for his and one does the officers and the Capt. had a darkey so we keep ours. he is the smartest and best one I have saw in Ky. if the Col. had premitted the Regt would have soon been over run with negroes. My opinion on politics is the same as it was althoug their was men sayed whenever a person came south he would change.

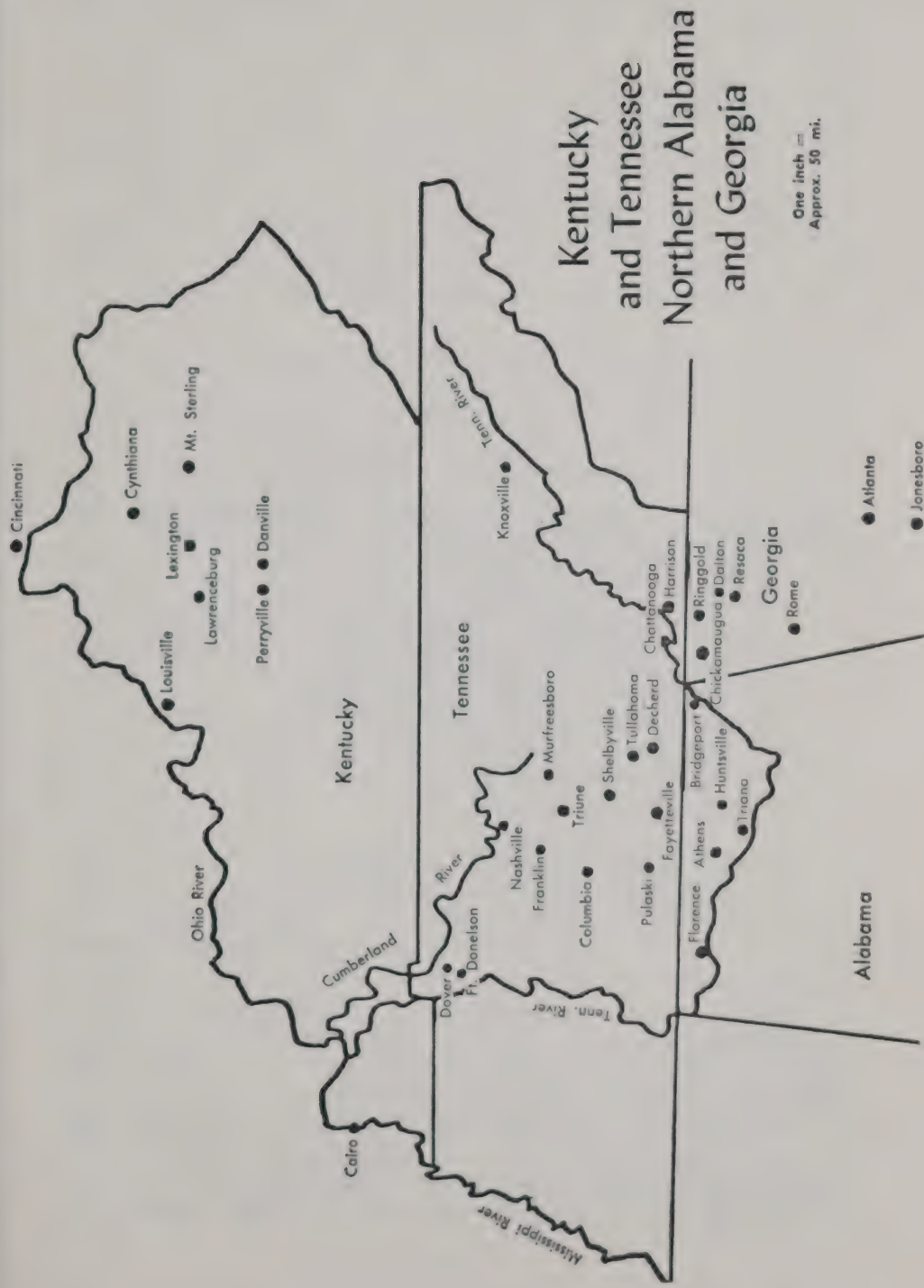
Jo I must write to you on the slavery question nextime and what I think of the way of stopping this rebellion. I have a talk with every man, woman, child, slave or anything that can talk every time I get a chance. I must close. I expect you canot read my writing I wrote in such a hurry. I hear some of the boys say that the post stamps are rubed off the letters that they send home. does mine get rubed off. I have put one on every time yet.

Good by until next time from your affectionate son and brother.

Give my love to Grandfather and Grandmother and Jenney and to all enquiring friends. There was a sick rebel at the house that I stood guard at. He was Liewt in the rebel army. he has the consumption. our doctors attended him at night and gave him medicine. I was up every two hours to relieve the guard. he will never get well. Marshal⁶ left him when he was through here. he is a Virginiun.

Direct as usual. C. Edwin Cort Via Cincinnati

6. Brig. Gen. Humphrey Marshall, Confederate Army.



Kentucky and Tennessee Northern Alabama and Georgia

One inch =
Approx. 50 mi.

CHAPTER III

ON THE MARCH ONCE MORE

Letter dated Nov. 18, 1862 was written on special stationery with the following verse, plus an illustration.

We are coming, Father Abraham,
Six hundred thousand more,
From Mississippi's winding stream,
And from New England's shore.
We leave our ploughs and workshops,
Our wives and children dear,
With hearts too full for utterance,
With but a silent tear.
We will not look behind us,
But steadfastly before.
We are coming, Father Abraham,
Six hundred thousand more!

Nov. 18, 1862

Camp 3 miles south of Lexington

Dear Friends,

We are on the march once more. The next morning after I wrote to you we were routed out early and ordered to pack up and be ready to march by 7 o'clock. as usual it was Sabbath. that is the day we do the most of our marching.

The Col. told us we were going to the front and that there was some talk of the people of Mt. Sterling going to trouble us on account of us having some darkeys in the Regt that they wanted to have but the Col. would not give them. he made a speech and

sayed that the officers need not give them up if they did not want too but sayed that if they could prove that they were union, he would advise them to let them go.

we went through the town without any disturbance. onley one man stepped out and presented a revolver at a darkey that was in Co. B and told him come out but they would not let him go as his master was sayed to be secesh.

when we got away from town the sheriff came after us to arrest the Col. but the rear guard would not let him pass. before we came to Winchester the word came to us that the 14 Ky and the people of W. were going to take the niggars from us and shoot the Col.

Before we came to the town the Col. ordered us to load and fix bayonets. He thought we would be fired at and if we were, he sayed God help the town as he would go through if he would have to fight his way but we were not molested.

there was one man drew a revolver and was going to shoot a niggar. we were not alowed to speak to any person, no difference what they say about us. If it had been in Co. H. that he drew the revolver he would have been shot on the spot. The Ky's do not care if the Secesh take a slave but if the union troops take one, they make a big fuss as they do not want any to get free. Some of the rabid Abolitionists were mad at the Col. because he would not let them take all the niggars that they wanted.

The people about Mt. Sterling are not very strong union. I believe that while we were there they were all right and while the secesh are around, they are the best kind of secesh. they dont care a snap for the union with out the slaves but I hope it is diferent in other parts of Ky.

the most of the niggars are treated well and if it was not for the name of freedome they are better than they could possibly be in any other condition for the present at least. if you ask a niggar where he would go if he was free he says up norf. a few of the smartest of them say that if they were free and could be free in this state they would stay.

the darkey we have is a very smart one, he says that not one out of five can make a living for themselves if they are left to their own resources. But if the rebellion cannot be put down with out emancepation I say emancepate and do not let slavery stand in the way in any shape.

but it is late and I have marched 16 miles today. it rained all day yesterday and until now today but it was pike road and my

gum blanket kept me dry. we are to go to Nickolasville tomorrow and then Tennessee prehaps but I do not know where for certain.

We are all in our usual health and good spirit but I am very sleepy. Good night. I have not got a letter for some time. the last one was three days coming. Direct as usual. love to all.

Write often.

C. E. Cort

Camp near Nicholasville, Ky.

Nov. 24th, 1862

Dear Friends,

I recieved yours of the 13th and was very glad to hear from you. I guess you do not get all the letters that I write to you. I wrote a long one to Will and Arth wich I think they have not recd. I am very well and the rest of the boys are enjoying their usual health. I wrote to you last on the 19th from this place and told about our traveling.

We are encamped about one half mile from the town in a fine grove. the town is a one horse concern. I was there on Friday.

On last Thursday the inspector Gen. was here and inspected our armes and accoutrements and pronounced them in good order. On Saturday I was on guard. On Sabbath morning we were ordered out for review before Gen Baird.¹ there was four other Regts there. I was not out as I just came off guard.

The weather is very fine for the last few days excepting it is pretty cool for camping out in tents. How long we will stay here is hard to tell but I would like to move farther south.

We have roll call now in the morning at 5 and have to be out in line with arms and accoutrements on before the Reveille is done beating. it is as dark as pitch and also at Tatoo which is 8½ o'clock. we have not to have our arms at Tatoo but cannot go to bed. Some of the boys think it is very hard. I think myself it is useless to call the roll at that time of the night and morning but it is Gen. Granger's orders and must be done.

News are scarce and I have nothing to write about. We drill twice a day once in company and once Battalion and have dress parade at sunset. We have to keep the camp clean. it is cleaned off every morning. I recieved a letter from Cousin Ruth Hutcheson on saturday. they were all well. Uncle has not answered yet. I wrote to him from Camp Fuller.

I recieved the two papers and was very glad to get them. we do not get much news. I would like to get the Republican once and a while and some of the Chicago papers. The Cincinnati papers

1. Brig. Gen. Absalom Baird.

are poor concerns. we can get them once a day for 5 cts. the same day they are dated.

Will, I want you and Arth to answer my letter wheather you get it or not and you can ask any questions you like and I will try and answer them some way or another. Mag, Davy Boyle sends his respects to you. I plaged him about that picture. he says he did not give it to her. DeWit Reynolds had it. He got it at Rockford. I must close as dinner is ready. I hear that some of the boys write home that they do not get enough to eat. I think they want to complain for we get all we want if it is not wasted and pretty good if cooked right. My love to all,

Yours ever, Ed

Camp 7½ miles south of Nicholasville, Ky.

Nov. 26, 1862

Dear Friends,

We are on the march again. We got orders yesterday after night to be ready to march by noon to day. we were ready to go at twelve and started. Our destination is said to be Danville. we have a good pike road to travel on. it is a little hard on the feet but easy for the teams.

The country is pretty much the same that it has been. onley the last few miles shows the appearances of being near some river. the Ky. river is two miles from here. On the road side we saw a vary fine vineyard of about 25 acres of fine level ground with the vines planted about 5 ft. each way apart and tied to a streight pole eight or nine feet high. it looked very nice and was as clean and free from weeds as a garden.

On the right side of the road I saw one of the finest peices of scenery I have seen since I left home. it was a deep ravine three or four hundred feet deep with sides almost perpendicular and covered with evergreen trees onley in one place it was a solid side of white rocks. we could see about one half of a mile down it where there was a bend.

Today is the coldest day we have had in Ky. yet. we marched with our overcoats on all the time. it was a fine day for traveling. I am writing now layin down on the straw which is about one foot deep in the tent. our accomadations for desks are not very good. generly, when we are in camp for a few days we get cracker boxes for to write on which answers the purposes very well when we can get no better.

I saw a Chicago paper this evening and saw by it that Gen

Granger² was to command the left wing of the army of the Mississippi and I suppose we will go down it as we are under Granger. If we go we have a long march before us but we are ready for it and all we want is to get a chance to do something.

I see by the papers that the people of Mt. Sterling were down on the 92nd and wrote a good many lies about us. I suppose some of the men did coax the niggers to march but the Col. was all right. We do not know any thing about the war or what we are going to do. You know more about our movements than we do ourselves.

We were all some what surprised this morning by the news that our 2nd Lieut. E. C. Mason had sent in his resignation and was accepted and was to leave the Co. today. we all knew he was tired of soldering but did not know that he was going to give it up so soon. his wife has been sick for some time and that was a good excuse. there was not much objections to his leaving but he was the smartest of any of the Com. officers but was not much of a military man. The old Capt. will soon follow by appearances.

Jim is trying to get his discharge. he is going into consumption and looks bad. the cool weather scares them. Dud is sick today and could not walk. he is better this evening. do not let his wife know it. Sim is getting better. he walked today but did not carry his knapsack. the rest of us are in tip top health and sprits. Some of the boys of the Co. have bad colds. Croff and Ed are the toughest boys in the Co and are ready for anything that is good to eat.

Good night, Ed

I write this in double quick time with all the laughing and talking and some reading aloud.

(Diary)

Nov. 26 Got out early, very coald and raw. are to go to Danville start by 12 oclock. boys are all writing this morning. marched 9½ miles and encamped on the side of a hill near a ford.

Nov. 27 Reveille beat at 3½ oclock and we were ready to start before sunup, marched faster than we have done yet. The morning was very cool and frosty. the country suddenly changed and became very rough and rocky. it was as beautiful scenery as I ever saw, the hills almost perpendicular and covered with mountain pine. in the hollow below was a small creek. we soon turned a point and the Ky river lay before us. we crossed on a covered bridg. on the other side of the river we saw Boones point. We arrived in Danville at one PM and marched through it. it is a very pretty town and appears to be the best union town we have passed yet. we camped one mile from town in the fair grounds. it is a very well arranged

2. Gen. Gordon Granger, Union general.

ground with a pretty cottage house for headquarters and a large amphetheater in center and a high fence around it.

Camp Baird near Danville, Ky.

December 1st, 1862

Dear Friends,

I recd Maggie's letter of the 25 on saturday evening bringing the Sad intelgence of the death of Grandfather. I had heard of it the day before through Peter Kershaw. Somehow or other I can scarcely relize that he is gone and that I will see him no more.

You spoke about me having a Cold. I have not had the least cough or cold since I came into Ky. until yesterday. I have a slight cough and a sore throat but it is better this morning although it was a very disagreeable night. it rained very hard last night and about 10 o'clock the water began to run under the tent and the first thing that I heard was John Lee asking for a string to tie his knapsack as it was floating off. we all got up and some went into the hospital tent. I went in with the Sergeants and slept there. The reason was we had not ditched the tent around to keep the water out. The other boys from Reynolds are in there usual health except Dud, he is still a little ailing.

I believe I wrote last on the 26th. We were camped then near the Ky. river. We started next morning before sunup. The morning was very cool and frosty. we struck the Ky river near Boones Knob. the scenery was the finest I ever saw. the pike was dug out of the side of the hill which was almost perpendicular and at the bottom of the hill was a creek named Rock Creek. the hills were covered with mountain Cedar and the sun was just coming up. the treetops were covered with frost. I thought it was the finest sight I ever saw. We crossed the river on a bridge. the river is a very pretty stream with very high banks.

We got to Danville at 1. it is a fine town and I think the best Union town I have seen in Ky. There are five hospitals in the town filled with the Union soldiers that were wounded at Perryville. we camped in the fair grounds. we got into camp about 2, having marched 11 miles. we marched faster that day than we have marched yet.

The fair grounds are got up in very nice order. We went there on the afternoon of the 27th but found that there was not water enough for to do us and we had to move to this camp.

Camp Baird is about 100 rods from town with plenty of pretty water convenient. About 7 miles from here we passed camp Dick Robinson, the first union camp organised in this state. it was in

the hands of the rebels at the time of the battle of Perryvill but was left very suden. there was a lot of pork and canon, wagons, ambulances, small armes and a great many other things left there by Brag. It is a splendid place for a camp.

Co. B. of this Regt (92nd) was detached this morning to go and guard it. The 92nd, 96th are the only troops here at present. there is to be more here in a few days, also a Ohio Battery was to have been here before this time. Col. Atkins is commandant of the post. Co. B of the 96th was detached to go and guard Crab Orchard.

The battlefield of Perryville is about ten miles from here. I head a man say that was there that it is worth going to see. some of the rebels are not buried very well but the union soldiers are all well buried and boards put up to mark the place with their names and the Regt and the Co. marked on them. there has been a great many dug up and sent home. the trees are all marked up by the bulets and some large ones are cut off by the canon balls. I want to go and see it if I can get to.

I would like to know if Wm. Clark or any of the Ill. Co. boys are in the hospitals at Danville. if you know that they are write soon and let me know. I want to go to town and try and find out if I can but it will be a hard job as I do not know the name of the co. and they are all mixed up in the diferent hospitals.

How long we will remain here is uncertain but I think that we will go in a few days, likely for Nashville. I have received Jo and the boys letters.

I think the boys have improved in writing and want them to write often. I recd one from Wm. Douthett on saturday. he is at Memphis. he is well and likes soldering very well. Robert Reeves got here yesterday from Cincinnati. he has been well for a month but could not get transportation here until four or five were ready to come at once.

P. Lyons sends his respects to you all. he stands it first rate, better than I thought he would. as it is dinner time I must close or I will not get my allowance wich I am always ready for. My love to you all.

C. E. Cort

Give my respects to all enquiring friends. Direct as usual. Write soon. J. T. Netleton sends his respects to you all.

Camp Baird near Danville, Ky.
December 5th, 1862

Dear Friends,

I rec'd four papers last night but have not rec'd a letter since

the 29th Nov. I was very glad to get the papers as we do not get much news here as Danville has no rail communications. the nearest is Nicholasville. we get your letters in three or four days generly. I had the sick headache yesterday for the first time since I enlisted. I am all right this morning excepting a little weak and some cold.

We have first rate accomadations now. We have a stove in our tent and we built sod two foot high around it and set the tent on top of it. it gives us more room. We got the stove ourselves. it cost us 25 cts. each, \$4.00 altogether. it is a regular tent stove and is light and easily carried.

The rest of the Reynolds boys are all in their usual health. Sim is doing duty again. I wrote last on the first and told you most of the news. There is considerable talk of our going to intrench this town. the engineers are surveying at present. There is sayed to be some rebels 20 or 30 miles from here but it is uncertain. There was an old canon and a lot of arms brought from Camp Dick Robinson a few days ago.

There was two men detailed from the company this morning to take a lot of prisoners to Nicholasville. Danville is under martial law and Capt. A. Woodcock of Co. K is provost marshal. Croff is detailed for to do some writing for the quartermaster for a few days.

Day before yesterday I saw Dr. R. J. Breckenridge. old Capt. made a great fuss over him as he had seen him at synod. he is going to preach to the reg't next Sabbath if the weather is good. he is a large man with a face full of gray whiskers. he lives in Danville.

The weather has been pleasant for several days. There is a good many of the boys have had colds and the measles are also in the hospital. Nelson gets along first rate. I don't believe there is as good a drill officer in the regt. excepting the Regimental officers. He acts as 2nd Lieut. I understand now until further orders and if the old Capt. resigns he will go in as capt. he will make a good one but we have no one that will fill his place as orderly very well as Co H is a hard Co. to manage. We are considered the best company in the Reg't. for all that and we owe it all to Nelson.

I believe I have nothing more to write now. it is about drill time and I must close. my love to you all including Grandmother and Jenny.

C. E. Cort

We get our mail every evening at 7 oclock.

Camp Baird, Danville, Ky.
Dec. 12th, 1862

Dear Friends,

I have not recd any letter since I wrote to you. I am in good health and the rest of the boys are generly well. Sim is still under the weather. I was on picket last night and have not got to drill any this morning so I thought I would write to you. I like picket better than line guard as we have nothing to do in the day time but we do not get any sleep.

On last Tuesday I met with quite a surprise. when I came off battalion drill I saw some wounded soldiers in camp. I heard some of the boys ask what regt. they were from. they answered the 79th Penn³. in a minute I was all attention. I saw by their hats that they were from Co. D. I asked who was their capt. they sayed McBride. I asked him his name. he sayed Henery McKane. I had him by the hand in no time. I asked if their was any more. he called two others.

They were Wm. Woodard, Noble Woodard's sone and Bill Smith, Pete's Bill. they were wounded in the Perryvill fight, McKane in the jaw, Smith in the shoulder and W. Woodard had his midle finger of his left hand off and a ball through him. it went in just above his heart and came out through one of his ribes close by the backbone at the small of the back and strange to say he was the best off of any of them.

he was the first man hit in the Co. they went in with 42 and 25 fell, onley two or three killed. Sylvester Collins was kill the first fire. Jo Hazzard was shot in the left arm and side. his arm had to come off. his father came after him and took him home. he says he will get a wooden one and come back.

they say McBride drinks very hard. Jo Hazzard they say was a first rate officer. Sam Keller was 2nd Lieut, Ent Bentley 3rd Sergt. Ki Cooper was wounded in the head. he is at Louisville. DeWit Bitting died from the effects of his wounds. The boys look natural but are pretty rough. they think they will be fit for duty soon but I think McKane will have to get his discharge as he cannot open his mouth. he has to eat soup but thinks when it gets entirely well it will come all right. Major Mellinger was so drunk that he fell off his horse. There was three Regts came here last night and two batterys. I expect we will leave here soon by looks of things.

I was down in town to see the hospitals. they are kept in good order and the patience are well tended and kept clean. they have clean bed clothes every week. the beds are for one. The Mononga-

3. The Cort family had moved to Illinois from Pennsylvania in 1855.

hela boys are in No. 5. it is the Theological seminary. the churches are used as hospitals. As it is near dinner time I must close. my love to all.

From your sone, grandson, Brother and cousin,

C. E. Cort

December 16, 1862

Dear Friends,

I reced. Jos letter yesterday evening. I supose it was his by the writing for there was no name to it. And was very glad to get it as it had been some time since I got one. It was writen on the 10th and mailed the 11th and I reced it on the 15th so it was onley four days coming. I also reced one from Clay Minier.

My health is first rate and the rest of the boys are in their usual health. Dud is on picket and last night was a very rough one. it rained, blew and snowed most of the night. The weather has been very fine for a week or so. the ground is not frozen the least bit but last night there was a change but this morning it is tolerable fair.

Since I last wrote there has been an increase of troops. the reason was the rumors that the enemy were advancing toward this place but I guess it is all a hoax. the pickets have been doubled and every precaution made against a surprise. There are now six Regts of infantry, two of cavalry, the 9th Ohio Battery and ten or twelve thousand close at hand with a fifty gun battery. Brig. Gen. Baird is in command. they say he is a first class Gen and always on the move. The engineer says he is the best officer in Ky as he has been with them all.

I was interrupted by the call for co. drill but am back now after two hours brisk exersize which makes me feel good. It has cleared up and the sun shines beautiful again.

We hear pretty good war news that Burnside⁴ has captured two lines of fortifications but with great loss at Fredricksburg.

Croff is still at the Quartermasters. he is there for good. I guess it is a good position for him. he gets better wages, \$20 per month. Jim Brice has not got his discharge yet but expects to get it soon. I heard that Lieut. Mason tells some pretty hard stories about Co. H. he says that they are a pack of theives and he was not brought up to stealing and could not stay with them. he must have got better than he was when he was at Rockford for it is pretty certain that he got some of Hendricks spoils. The reason that he resigned was he was getting too near the enemy and soldering was no play for lazy people.

4. Gen. A. E. Burnside, Army of the Potomac.

We had a rather short breakfast this morning, coffee and fried beafsteak. there was no crackers but 18 loads of them came in today. I went to the Sutlers and bought some crackers. I am about out of stamps and money. I can get along without money but would like some stamps. I will close this by sending my love to you all.

C. E. Cort

Camp Baird, Danville, Ky.

Dec. 23rd, 1862

Dear Friends,

I reced three papers yesterday evening but no letter. The last one I reced was dated Dec. 10th. My health is very good and has been so ever since I came into Ky. excepting one or two days that I had a cold. The rest of the Reynolds boys are in their usual health excepting Sim. he is still under the weather but he has a very good appetite for a sick man.

The Capt. is grunting. I guess he wants to resigne. There is no battalion drill this afternoon. the officers are busy making out the pay rolls and there are rumors that we are going to get our pay in a few days. I hope the rumor will turn out correct this time. There is no news of any importance to write as we are doing nothing but picket and guard duty and drill twice a day.

There has been some talk for the last week that we were going to have something to do by way of fighting. Rumors say that Marshal and Kerby Smith are coming toward this place with a large force. There are more troops coming here every day. The 14th Ky and the 115th Ills came here yesterday. The 10th Ohio battery is here encamped close by us. it is sayed to be the crack battery of Ohio. There is also a fifty gun battery either here or close by. it is composed of small guns that two men can handle and in case of a retreat can be strapped on a horses back and carried off in a hurry. If the rebels are coming we are ready for them.

We have had some extras to eat the last few days. we drawed some flour and have had warm biscuit twice. Our cook borrowed a Dutch oven to bake them in. We got some of the mixed vegetables that there was such a talk of in the papers. it is pretty good for soup. There are Potatoes, Onions, Cabage, Carrots, Turnips, Tomatoes and several other kinds of vegetables in it. it is compressed so that a piece two inches square will make enough soup for twenty men.

The weather is very fine. I see the Lieut. Col. playing ball and the men are in their shirts sleeves. I think we will have rain soon by appearances. I will stop writing untill tomorrow morning and see if there is a letter for me in tonights mail. I reced a letter from

cousin Ruth and Uncle John. they are all well when the letter was written. Good bye untill tomorrow morning from Ed

I guess you had better direct Via Lexington, Ky. after this.

Camp Baird, Danville, Ky.

Dec. 25, 1862

Dear Friends,

I reced Maggie's very welcome letter yesterday evening and was pleased to hear of your good health. I had heard through Croff that Uncle Will was there. I am glad that he is coming to live there. My health is as good as usual. the rest of the boys are in their usual health.

This is Christmas evening, the first I ever spent away from home I believe. I have spent it more pleasantly than I expected. We had turkey and warm biscuits for dinner and no drill and played ball most of the day. There was also some got drunk for to find pleasure but I rather think they will feel dissapointed in the morning.

Mag wanted to know the dimensions of my mustache in cubic feet. I can not tell as I have no rule to measure with. it is a very fine dove color, I believe and the boys says looks quite milatary. Mother wants to know what kind of a chaplain we have. he is a tolerable smart man but very stuck up and lazy. in fact, the boys all hate him. he has not preached more than three or four times since we came into Ky.

I mailed a letter to you day before yesterday and would not have writen so soon but we received marching orders. we are to march tomorrow morning at 4 o'clock. we onley got the orders at dark this evening and we are somewhat hurried. Our destination is sayed to be Mumsfordville. It is sixty miles from here. We are to march it in five or six days so we have work before us in the shape of marching and also may have some fighting to do but it is uncertain.

Croff wishes me to say that he wrote to his brother yesterday. he is well and sends his respects to you all. As it is getting late I will close and go to bed. My love to all of you. Goodbye

C. E. Cort

I just heard a good joke about one of the boys. he lost his socks and hunted all around for them. at last he went and washed his feet and found them after he had washed off one thickness of dirt.

The Monongahela boys say that the Republican has stoped. They say that C. B. King and T. Kerr are married. I do not know wheather you have heard it or not. Write soon.

CHAPTER IV

A DAY'S MARCH ALL FOR NOTHING

Camp Baird, Danville, Ky.
Dec. 30th, 1862

Dear Friends,

I suppose you will be some what surprised to see this letter headed as it is. I am very well and have just come off picket this morning.

We left this camp on the 26th before sunup and marched until 2½ oclock P.M. It began to rain a little after we started and fairley poured down all day. it made very disagreeable marching. we marched 15 miles and camped. it was the hardest march we have had yet as it was so wet.

We pitched tentes and carried straw to make our selves comfortable, got our super and went to tent when it began to rain again and it rained as hard as you generely see it for two or three hours. we built a big fire and let it rain away. some of the boys did not dig a trench around their tents and while it was raining some of them would stick their heads in and ask for a spade.

We went to sleep and after a while I was awakened by a bugle calling the Ohio battery up and the next thing the Lieut stuck his head in and told us to get up and fill our haversacks with crackers and 20 more cartridgs and be ready to travle at one on a forced march. I got up and packed Knapsack and wiped out my gun and got all ready when the order was countermanded and we went to bed again. Slept until six, got ready when we found we were going

on the back track as we had done all we came out to do. The night order was for us to go to Lebanon before eight but the Gen. got a dispatch that the enemy had changed direction.

There was two Brigades of us and two batterys together. We got back to Camp Baird by three P.M. on the 27th and camped on the same spot we did before. There was two Regts went back on the same road yesterday. They were tryin to divert Morgan¹ from the railroad betwene this and Louisville. Morgan has committed considerable damage in that direction but he is as slippery as an Eel and we lack cavalry to catch him.

There was onley seventy men in the Co this march as all that could not carry their knapsacks was to stay back. the Capt went six miles and gave out and stopped at a house on the road. Dud carried his knapsacks the first day but got sick and could not the next. he is better now. there was a good many of the boys give out the first day. I stood it first rate although I was not well the day we started. There are still rumors that the enemy are going to attack us. we are ready for them to pitch in. I will close as the mail will soon close.

Written double quick.

My love to all

Ed

Camp Baird, Danville, Ky.

Jan 5th, 1863

Dear Friends,

I reced Joe's letter in due time and was glad to hear that you were all enjoying your usual good health. My health is very good but the health of the Co. is not very good. onley about one half of the Co are fit for duty now. there are as a general not very bad. Dud is not very well. Ren Herinton, Hendricks², Fritz are unwell.

Sim Reynolds is very poorly. he is stopping at a private house. he looks very bad. he persued a very bad course and got all the Doctors down on him and would not take proper exercise. I think that he will not live long. the most that appears to be the mater with him is home sickness.

All the Noncommissioned officers except four were sick last week and I was on picket twice last week. I got all the milk that I wanted and I tell you it went first rate. A person to keep well must not eat to much and take proper exercise while we are laying

1. Brig. Gen. John Hunt Morgan, Confederate Army.

2. J. M. Hendricks.

in camp. if we were marching regular we would soon have a full Co. again. The weather is very fine now.

We have found out that our last march was ordered by Morgan. he got hold of the telagraph and sent word to the Gen. that he was moving on Lebenon, representing himself to be the sitezens of that town and for Gen. Baird to send troops to the town to keep him out but that night aftere we had marche one day he found out that the news came from Morgan himself and we were ordered back. Morgan wanted to get us away from Danville and then make a dash on the town and get the U.S. stores that are here so that march that we took on the 26 was all for nothing.

We are hearing very good news now from the Southwest which I hope is true for if all we hear is true the rebellion is pretty well broken in the West.

I drew two pairs of socks and two shirts last week. They are good articles. We are charged 80 cts apiece for the shirts and 26 cts for socks which would cost 50 cts at home but I supose U. Sam gets them cheap. Some one had stolen one of my other shirts.

Lyon has been sick for some time but he is all right again. News are some what scarce now. The old capt has not been with the Co. since our last march. He is stopping down in town. I guess at Dr. Breckenridge's. We get along without him very well, in fact he is not missed.

Jim has gone home. He kind of sliped off. We did not know that he was going until he was just starting. I will close by sending my love to you all. Write often as usual and I will be satisfied.

Ed

January 10th, 1863

Dear Friends,

As it is raining I thought I would write. When I began to think I find that it has been longer than usual since I have written. I am enjoying pretty good health now. I was not very well a few days ago but have got all right again. The health of the rest of the Reynolds is as good as usual. Sim is at a private house yet. his health is about the same. The health of the Regt is better than it was a week ago.

The Capt is still in town. he has good quarters at Dr. Breckenridge and appears to be lothe to leave. There has been a change in the officers. Nelson³ is 2nd Lieut and S. L. Bailey Orderly. he got in by some under handed game. he is a *Free Mason* and so is the Lieut. Col. I guess he will make a good orderly but then it is a very

3. John F. Nelson who later became Captain.

unfair for Nettleton and Hastings. the boys would not have liked Nettleton as an Orderly but Hastings would have made a very good one. If the old Capt. had any mind of his own he could have prevented it but he is like a lump of putty that can be squeezed any way at all.

I have not reced any letter from home for some time. I looked for one last night but it did not come. The pay master has been here and paid us some green backs. We were only paid one month and the odd days. my pay amounted to \$21.60, one month and nineteen days, so there is two months pay due us yet. by the time I get all my debts paid I will not have much to send home. I bought a pair of boots, owed the cooks \$2.00, the sutler \$2.00 and my subscription for the band. I find I have twelve dollars left.

Jan 11th, Sabbath

I thought I would finish today so as to get this started in the mornings mail. I reced Mag's and Arth's letter last night with the stamps and two dollars. I am very glad to get them but will send the money back with five dollars. The boys are going to express a lot together to Wm. Colditz⁴ of Lane so you can call there and get \$7.00. We will get more pay in about a month I think.

Ren Herinton is going to the hospital today. he is threatened with the feaver. I feel a great deal better since I have got money and can get some apples, eggs and something that is a little change. We recieve rations of soft bread now. We have all got tired of rice and beans.

I think from present appearances that if nothing happens me I will be home in about two years and seven months from now. I can content my self any where if you can get along. I feel more uneasy about the ones at home than a bout myself. We have very easy times now. we have not drilled any for a week. Lyons is in town today but I think that his wife will be back to Lane soon. she was well when he last heard from her. I will close and write soon again. Love to all

C. Ed Cort

(Diary)

Jan. 12 Went out with wood choppers 5 miles south on Dr. R. J. Breckenridges farm. country rather rough. timber very good, mostly Beech, Gum and Oak with some Hickory.

Jan. 13 Got orders to move our camp. Moved about one mile from our old camp and camped in a very pretty grove but some distance to Water. Began to rain last night and rained hard all day.

4. A hardware firm in Lane (now Rochelle, Ill.)

still raining when we went to roost.

Jan. 15th Began to sleet at midnight and when we turned out found about two inches of sleet on the ground. Was detailed for guard and it stormed all day. was taken off at 7 PM and slept in tent.

Camp Baird, Danville, Ky.
Jan. 20th, 1863

Dear Friends,

I reced Joe's letter yesterday evening and also the paper and was very glad to hear from home but sorry to hear that Mother and Grandmother were not very well but hope that by this time they are in there usual health. My health is not quite so good as usual this morning. I was on guard yesterday and last night and feel dull today.

I would have writen sooner but the mail has not been able to get through since last Wendsday and until last night on account of high water carring away bridges between here and Cincinnati and knew there was no use to write until communacation was opened.

On the 13th we changed our camp and have moved about half mile from old camp on a fine dry rise of ground in a grove. the water is not so handy but of better quality. On the 14 it commenced to rain and rained all day very hard. the next night at 1 it began to turn into sleet and snow and stormed all the next day until there was quite a snow on the ground but it is going off today as it is raining now.

I saw onley one sleigh. It was an old fashioned two horse consern. The Kys thought it was a very hard storm but it was not much for Ills. boys. I had no idea that we could keep so comfortable in our tent. Croff was along the last march.

You want to know about our clothing. We get \$42.00 worth per yeare and if we draw over that we have to pay for it out of our wages. as to our two suites we have seen the folly of them some time since but we had them and had to put up with it. I have saved one suit all I could and it is as good as ever yet and am waring the other one out and after that is gone I will never have more than one suit at a time for soldering.

About the watch there is nothing I need more than a watch when on guard. I have to borrow one sometimes. If you can send me Grandfathers I would be glad. there is an express office at Danville. You can tell how things come through when you get the

money. the express came through when the mail did not. If you send it, send it soon.

Col. Atkins⁵ is in command of the brigade. Col. Cocran of the 14th Ky. has resigned. While I was out my paper got blotted. I must draw to a close as it is near mail time. My love to all

From C. E. Cort

Camp Baird, Danville, Ky.
Sabbath morning, Jan 25th, 1863

Dear Friends,

We have just recieved orders to march tomorrow morning at 6½ oclock and I thought I would write you a few lines this morning. My health is pretty good now. I was not well for about one week. I had the Jaundice which is very common here now. I bought a box of McLanes pills and they streightened me up in a few days but I never missed my turn of duty. The rest of the Reynolds boys are pretty well. Ren Herinton is better. Sim is the same old style and at a private house.

I am glad that we are going to move for I think it will improve the health of the Regt. The next thing is where we are going. it is to Nashville or Louisville and then to Vicksburgh. I think the latter place is our destination. after we are started I will write and let you know which way we are going.

About the watch if you have not started it all right. if you have all right to. there will be some of our boys left here in the hospital and I have left word with them if it comes to get it and send it to me with the first man that comes to join the Co.

If we go to Vickburgh we will march to Louisville and then take the boat and go down the river. We will not have to carry all of our clothes on this march.

You wanted to know if I saw Croff often, Yes every day or as often as we want to see each other. he is in our tent every evening to see us. he is onley about 40 rods from our Co at the Quarter-Masters tent and always with the Regt. One of the boys in our tent has got the measles. he just got them this morning. his name is Judson Willis.

You wanted to know who messes with me. I will give you a list of our mess. there are some sick now. The ones that are here now are J. T. Nettleton, P. Lyon, Wm. Havlin, E. Tilton, D. C. Hastings,

5. Col. Smith D. Atkins.

D. C. Whitehead, the three Herintons, Robert Reeves, David Boyle, John Brown, C. E. Thayre, Judson Willis, John Lee, C. E. Cort, E. Pettit. This is the list of the men in mess No. 2 that are fit for duty. D. C. Hastings is hardly able for duty.

I will draw to close and after we start I will write and let you know where to direct to. My love to all

Ed

Chapter V
TO NASHVILLE, BY LAND AND WATER

Shelby Co.

In Camp 35 miles from Louisville, Ky.
Wednesday evening, Jan. 28, 1863

Dear Friends,

I had calculated to write yesterday evening but I had scarcely finished a letter to Uncle Will when I was called to go on guard and could not write any more. My health is very good now, better than it has been for sometime. The rest of the boys are better than they were before we began the march.

We do not carry our knapsacks on this march and I tell you it goes good to get clear of them. Each Co is furnished with an extra team for to carry our knapsacks. All we carry is our gun, cartridge boxes and provender to last a day.

We left camp at Danville at 6 on Monday morning and passed through Harrodsburg at 11 and camped at 1 PM five miles north of Harrodsburg having marched 15 miles. It rained all afternoon and all night. Next morning it was snowing. we started at 8 the snow melting as fast it fell, passed through the small towns of Eldorado, Elvira and at 2 PM passed through Lawranceburg. it is a town of about 1,000 inhabitation and there are some very fine residences in and near the town. we camped about 3 miles from the town, came 17 miles. Was on guard three hours of the night. Started this morning at 7. day cool, passed through four small towns, Rough & Ready, Harisville,¹ Hortonsville² and Clayville³ we

1. Harrisonville, Ky.

2. Hardinsville.

3. Clay Village

passed within six miles of Frankfort.

There are two Brigades, the 1st & 2nd and two Batterys, 9th Ohio & 21st Ind. today we overtook the 2nd Ohio battery going the same way. there are marks of camps on the road so I think there are more troops going the same way. We marched 18 miles to day and got into camp at 2½ PM. I think that we will get to Louisville on Friday night.

I wrote to Uncle Will⁴ to let him know that I was going to be in Louisville and wanted him to come to see me. I do not know how long we will stop in Louisville or where we will go after we get there onley that we are going on boats and will have to turn over our teams. Gen. Baird is in command of the Division or rather the part of the Divis. Col Atkins commands the 2nd Brigade and it was through him that we got clear of carrying our knapsacks.

As it is getting late I will close for the Present time. Sim is left at Danville. he did not appear to want to come very bad. We are very comfortable, have about one foot of straw and a good fire and merry companions or at least cheerful ones. I find that by having a little Grit and being cheerful are what keeps up a soldier. Mr. Lyon is sitting beside me now talking. he sends his respects to you all.

Direct to Via Louisville for the present untill I let you know otherwise. excuse errors as it is written in hast.

love to all

C. E. Cort

On board the Steamer Arazonia
about 30 miles below Louisville, Feb. 2, 63

Dear Friends,

Next morning after writing to you we continued our march as usual. We passed through Shelbyville. it is the best built and liveliest town for its size I have seen in Ky. we also passed through several small towns that day. we had to march very slow as the other brigade was before us. we marched 17 miles and went into camp at 4.

Had a good start next morning, passed through Middletown a very old looking place. When we got within 10 miles of Louisville the country was as level as a Prairie and was once heavily timbered. We passed the Fair grounds. they are now used as mule pens. there was about 7,000 mules in and around them. We camped about one mile from town.

Started at sunup on Saturday for the boat. had to stop in the

4. William Carson, his mother's brother.

street for two hours, finely reached the boat about 10. four Co went aboard of this boat, E, C, G & H. and S is on the Tempest. Co E & H are down in the lower story, C around outside of the Cabin, G on top. The cabin is used as a hospital for both boats and for the officers.

Co's E & H have the best place for the weather is Cold here now. This boat is a stern wheel boat. the Tempest is side wheel. There are 8 wagons and 30 mules aboard. the boat is pretty well loaded. They have bales of pressed hay all around the boilers so if we are fired into the boilers will not be injured. We are to run down about 100 miles below Louisville and wait until all the fleet gets together. The Tempest went down last night.

On Saturday after we had been on the boat about two hours Nelson hollourd for me and I went to see what was up. When I saw a red whiskered man I guessed who it was. It was Uncle Will. he had not got my letter but was passing through Louisville and saw a lot of Ill. Regts and made enquiry for the 92nd and hunted me up. he was in a hurry and onley stayed about half an hour. he wanted me to go home with him but I could not as I did not know what minuit we would start. I would have went over if we had not left today.

Yesterday evening I had to take 7 men and patrol the city for about two hours hunting up stray soldiers. I saw most of the city. Croff is in the other boat. he has not been very well for a while back but is some better now. You spoke of showing him your letters. he never read but one of my letters yet and I gave it to him to read. keep mine private as I do not want every body to know their con-tense.

As to our destination it is still uncertain but the boat men all say we are going to Nashville. they have pilots for the Cumberland river. There will be a large fleet. some say 100 boats are going to-gather. there are sayed to be two gunboats to escort us. I am getting to cold to write and will quit for a while. No telling when I will get a chance to mail this.

Tuesday afternoon, Feb, 1863. It is colder today than it was yesterday. My health is good. I wish the weather was warmer so that I could stay out and see the country. There are seven or eight boats in sight now. We stopped last night and the cooks went on shore and cooked five days rations. Now I suppose you would think it quite a job to cook enough for to do five days but all that was to do was done in about three hours, boiled a lot of pork or side meat with the ribs in.

We are now about 12 miles from old Ills line. there will be apt to be a cheer when we see Ills once more. we are to run to the mouth of the Cumberland and wait untill all of the fleet gets together. The Tempest is ahead and our boat next. we expect to have some difficulty in going up the Cumberland. There are three batteries placed on the boats so that they can be used. we were ordered to put our guns in order for use.

The boys are all enjoying their usual health. Lyons is in the other boat with the band. I saw him last night. I will close this time. I recd Joe's good long letter at Louisville.

Love to all, C. E. Cort

Direct Via Cairo as that will be the most direct rout.

In camp three miles south of Nashville, Ten

Feb. 9, 1863

Dear Friends,

I last wrote to you on our way down the Ohio. We reached the mouth of the Cumberland on the 3rd about 7 in the evening. had intended to lay and wait for the whole fleet to get together but we got the news that there was a fight going on at Doneldson⁵ and the gunboats had went ahead to help them so all the boats that were there started and run all night.

about noon we arrived within 2 miles of the fort when we landed and our Regt was ordered to form on the shore. the Col went ahead and reconnoitered. he came back and we were ordered aboard again and started on our journey again. arrived at the fort about two Oclock and stopped at Dover, half mile above the fort. the fort is a strong looking affair. There was six gunboats at dover and some other boats that had come up with them the night before.

There had been quite a battle the day before. the 83rd Ill and a battery were all the forces that were there. On the 3rd our pickets were driven in and at 2 PM the Col of the 83 received a summons to surrender. he sayed he would not and they were atacked by a force consisting of 7 regts, mostly cavalry. they were mostly dismounted. The union forces were about 700 strong. the 83 were all thrown out as skermishers, each Co. acting for its self and most nobely did they do it for every charge of the enemy was successfully resisted. The rebels had 10 pieces of artillery.

the fight was in and around the town of Dover. in the evening our forces were driven into the grave yard and there made a stand and repulsed the enemy again. the grave yard is on a hill with rifle pits around it. The enemy were drawn up in line and were about

5. Fort Donelson, Tennessee.

to make a final charge when a shell flew over the heads of our men and announced the welcome intelligence that the gunboats had arrived. the enemy immediately retreated.

When we arrived our forces were engaged in burying the dead. There was 15 of our men killed including one Captain and the Quarter master. the battery lost most of their horses. there was 40 wounded and missing. When we left Dover on the morning of the 6 there had been 200 rebels found and buried and 75 wounded and prisoners amongst them two Colonels and one Lieut killed. they carried off their wounded. they had over 50 horses killed and had buried some of their dead.

I was over the battle ground and saw five dead rebels. they were big stout looking men. their officers do not wear any uniform. they were all dressed in butternut jeans. all the Col had on was a green sash. he was acting as a Brig. Gen. he had no shoulder straps on. It was a decided victory for our side although against such odds.

We lay all the next day at Dover until all the fleet came up. About 10 A.M. on the 6th we started for Nashville. the fleet consisted of over 50 boats including the gunboats. There were about 20,000 troops and 4 batteries on the boats. it was a grand sight at night to see all the boats. two boats were tied together so if one was sunk they could go on the other one. we run all night. next day when we came within about 5 miles of Nashville the boats were uncoupled as the river was narrow.

the Cumberland river is a deep but narrow river. I saw six boats abreast and they filled the river. We saw the ruins of the steamboats that were burnt sometime ago. After the boats got apart they began to race. there was about a dozen ahead of us but before we got to Nashville we passed all but the Gen's boat and would have passed that if we had dared to. We got to Nashville at 4 PM the 7th. it is rather a gloomy looking city from the river.

We stayed on the boat all night. it was one week since we came on the boat. Next morning, Sabbath, we were up early and began to unload which was finished at noon when we started and passed through town. the streets are very irregular and narrow but there are some very fine buildings. we passed the state house. about one mile from the city are the fortifications. they are strong and being made stronger every day.

We passed a camp where there was a thousand contraband⁶ that were at work on the fortifications. they were not working yes-

6. Negro slave who escaped to, or was brought within, the Union lines.

terday as it was Sabbath. they have a lot of soldiers to guard them but have black officers and are divided into Companys and have regular Co. and Regt. officers as if they were soldiers. they looked fat, lazy and contented.

The trees are all cut down around the fortification so as to give full sweep to the canon. The country around Nashville shows all the ruinous effects of war there, no fences, roads all cut up. There are 22 hospitals in Nashville filled with sick and wounded.

We are now camped about three miles south of the City by the side of a stream of water. we came here yesterday afternoon. The other Regts that came up with us are coming in and camping around us. how long we will stop here is uncertain. We may leave tomorrow or stay in camp a week.

The country is broken and rough as far as I have seen in Tenn. Lem Locklin that used to live in Lane is here. he is orderly in the 125 Co H. He stayed with us all night. We have had no mail since we left Louisville. You will not hear from me as regular as you have as the mail is very irregular here but I will write as often. Rosecranses army is about 40 miles from here. Excuse errors as this was writen in a hurry and on my knee. My love to all,

C. E. Cort

Camp near Nashville, Tenn.

Feb. 13, 1863

Dear Friends,

I thought as I had nothing to do this morning I would write a few lines home. I reced Joes and Wills letter night before last, the first mail that we have had since we left Louisville. Also one from Cousin Cyrus Cort containing one from Cousin Lydia which I will send in this.

I have had a very bad cold for three or four days but am a good deal better this morning. I caught it from laying on the damp ground after being use to the boat. the ground was vary wet and we did not have any straw the first night nor have not had any yet but we have Tennessee feathers which are big coarse weeds that grow on land that has not been worked last year. the ground has got dried out now. we have our stove yet and calculate to keep it until the weather gets real warm. We have had two pretty warm days since we came here.

There is the call for Co. drill and I must go. Well, I have got back from drill. The Capt undertook to drill us in Skermish drill. he never drilled any in it before and we all knew more about it than him. he is good to the boys, espechaly if any of them are sick

but knows nothing about drill and in battalion drill gets excited so much that he dont know what he is doing.

I would like to know how W.C.D. has got home. Will wants to know why I don't write to him and Arther. every letter that I write is to them as much as any one else. he wants to know if I chew or smoke. No, I neither smoke, chew, drink whiskey nor swear nor do I think I will get in the habit of any of them for the more I see of them the more I detest them.

We are still in the same camp. Our brigade has had the ofer of staying in the forts around Nashville but Atkins don't want to. Neither do I as this thing of laying in one camp so long is not healthy. Diner.

Diner is over. we had soft bread and pork beans for diner. We will not get any more soft bread for some time. We drawed fresh beaf this morning. Every thing is very high there. hay \$50.00 per ton. Tea, \$3.50 per lb. Eggs \$1.00 doz, corn \$1.50 bus. and every thing in proportion.

We do not get any news since we came here. have not heard a word of Rosecranse since we came here but I expect some of these days we will be ordered to join him. Croff is well and still at the Q Masters. the rest of your acquaintances are in good health. I will close by sending my love to all from Ed Cort

I am about out of stamps and cant get any here and would like some.

Camp near Nashville, Tenn.
Feb. 17, 1863

Dear Friends,

I have reced onley one letter from home Since I came here. I reced one from Uncle John Hutcheson yesterday. they were all well. I have had one of the worst colds that I ever had. I had a stiff neck, sore throat and sore all over. The boys went and got a good suply of straw and we have first rate beds now. Almost every body had more or less cold. My cold is about all gone now neck and throat are all right.

Day before yesterday we got orders to be ready to march at any moment. all the sick were sent to Nashville and every thing got in readiness but orders have not come yet and we are still here. It rained hard all last night but to day it does not rain. We have been drilling in Skermishing ever since we came here both by Co. and Regt.

Dudley Whitehead had a very bad spell of the Camp colic a few nights ago. he is better again. he is subject to them. One of our

boys saw Alf Cantalo in Nashville a few days ago. he says he will come and see us. he is able to travel around. I don't know wheather Walter Gilbert is there or not. There has been one death in our Co. a young man named A. D. Brow died at Danville last week. He had been left in the hospital. he had the typhoid feaver. he was married a few days before we left Rockford to a young lady living in Rockford. There are some sick still there. There has been several applycations for discharges. there will be some get them.

I forgot to send that letter of cousin Lydia's that Cyrus Cort sent me. I will try and send it this time. He also says that Dan C. Barley has turned up as Col. of the 6th Louisiana Regt. In one of your letters you wanted to know what had became of Ent Bently. he is 3d Sergt. in Co. D 79th Penn.

We are camped alongside of the Franklin Pike and it beats all the number of Government teams that are passin and repassing day and night. We do not get our mail regular at all yet. I supose the letters will go streight home. write often so that I can get them often. News are very scarce in fact there nothing of importance going on here in camp and we hear nothing from the advance and nothing from any other direction of importance.

I don't think we will leave this camp for a week any how. Croff is well and so are the rest of the Reynolds boys. Mr. Lyon got a letter from Mrs. Lyons yesterday. she had seen Mother and Mrs. Scott.

I will close by sending my love to all from Ed Cort
In Camp near Nashville, Tenn.
Feb. 18, 1863

Dear Friends,

As the Capt is going home today or tomorrow I thought I would write a few lines. My health is improving fast. The talk was yesterday evening that we would march this morning but we are here yet and no telling when we will go.

Dudley Whitehead went to the hospital at Nashville yesterday. He was not able to march and he thought he had better go. I will send my old commssion with this. The Corps. have went up one step. I am 2nd now.

It rained all last night but has quit this morning. We have a good pike to march on. If we march we will go to Franklin about 20 miles from here and 15 from Murfreesboro. We will have Nelson for capt. now I supose. The Capt. goes home at the request of the Company. I have nothing to write as I wrote to you yesterday.
from C. E. Cort

Camp near Nashville, Tenn.
Feb. 23, 1863

Dear Friends,

I recieved Joes letter of the 15th yesterday, the second letter I have received from home since I came hear. They were two weeks all but two days apart. I was very glad to hear from you and that you were enjoying your usual health. My health is better than it has been for some time at present.

The weather is very changeable here now. Day before yesterday it rained all day and night. Yesterday it grew cold. last night it froze pretty hard. to day it is pleasant and thawing fast.

The captain has sent in his resignation. it was at the request of the Co. he has not got his papers yet. I wrote a few lines and gave him to take along with him but he has not started yet and likely this will beat him. We heard this morning that Vicksburg⁷ was taken. The news came through the rebels. I hope it is true.

Dudley Whitehead is in the hospital in Nashville. he had a bad spell of cramp colic and was not able to march when the fuss about marching was at its high. They say he has applyed for his discharge. if he gets it and goes home he will blow considerable about abolitionism. dont you have any talk with him as he is a regular fanatic. Abolitionists are getting scarce in Co. H now. There are a good many that have got their eyes opened. this is private.

There was one Brig went on the boats yesterday and went up the river toward the head of the river.

There has been some pretty hard stories written back that we had nothing to eat and that his fathers hogs lived better than we do. If a man chooses to be a hog he can be any where. As to our eating it is not as good as we had at home but any body that is well and exersizes enough can live very well on it. We have shoulders and fresh meat, beans, rice, coffee, shugar, Hard crackers or soft bread all the time. We have fresh meat about twice a week or two days out of a week. Our squad have tea once a day. Satuday we got a lot of sassafras⁸ which will make a change and our cook is a good hand to get the victuals up and cooks them well.

We have not had any camp guard since we came here and it saves us a great deal of duty. We have a boundery line and can go no farther without a pass. How long we will stay here is still uncertain but I think we will not go for sometime yet. The 1st

7. Vicksburg was not taken until July 4, 1863.

8. A tree of the laurel family. A tea is made from the roots which are boiled in hot water with sugar added when the brew becomes a deep red color.

Brig has moved about 7 miles toward Franklin.

I will close by sending my love to all. Write as often as you can as it does me good to hear from home. from C. E. Cort
(Diary)

Feb. 25 Cleaned up the Co. ground. did not get it quite finished when it began to rain and rained all afternoon. tent leaked.

Feb. 28 Were mustered for pay in afternoon. took the rumetism in my knees so that I can scarcely walk.

March 1 Sabbath. This is my 22nd birth day. Day cool and wet. Still got lame knees.

March 2 Was excused from duty to day. knees better. Day the finest we have had for some time.

Camp near Nashville, Tenn.
March 2, 1863

Dear Friends,

I recieved Maggie's very welcome of the 20th and was very glad to hear from you yesterday evening. My health is good now. the cold is all gone.

Maggie wants to know why I dont write to her. my letters are to one and all. She must not think of teaching school this summer at all as it would make them lonesome and then it will make you discontented. So I think you had better not think of it for the present at least until you get older. you know how sour looking school teachers get when they begin young.

If the Conscription act goes into effect you must not think of going, Jo. if you canot get your certifeate of disability pay the \$300 for you could not stand camp life one month. For my part I dont think there are any need of any more troops as there are enogh men to clean out the rebes in the field now. But it may have a good effect to intimidate the South.

We are on the extream right of the Army of the Cumberlan. The 1st Brigade is at Franklin now. Our position is Franklin which is about 20 miles from here. we are liable to be ordered there at any moment. everything has been in readiness to move for two weeks. They have cut every thing down as much as posible so as to make less to carry. We onley have two teams for the Q Master, hospital and Col and prehaps four of the Co teams will be taken away.

We had to turn over a good part of our cooking utensels and the officers canot carry so much baggage as they use to for the Co teams have to carry more provisions. Gen Rosecranses order is to have the companey cook all together but we dont like it and will not do it if we can help it. the Q M is to furnish and pay two black

cooks but I would rather pay \$1.50 per month to have our own squad cook than to have all the Co. cook together for then unless a person acts like a hog he cannot get his share.

Dudley Whitehead is back with the Co again. he has the Asthma. Wade Herington has been very poorly with the Sore throat for a few days. he could not speak scarcely at all. he is in the Regiment hospital. he is a great deal better now. Squire Bailey has had the Jaundice bad. there has been about half of the Co had them.

I suppose you all know that yesterday was my 22nd birthday. I spent the day in the tent reading. I got the papers on Saturday and was glad to get them and the stamps also. I must close as the paper is about used up and it is about mailtime. Croff is well.

love to all from Ed.

CHAPTER VI

MANEUVERS AGAINST VAN DORN AND
FORREST IN EASTERN TENNESSEE

Camp near Franklin, Tenn.
March 7, 1863

Dear Friends,

We have made another move since I last wrote. On last Thursday afternoon while we were on battalion drill the Major came and told the Lieut. Col that an order had come for us to go to Franklin right off as they were fighting there. We had heard the firing for some time.

When we came to camp were ordered to be ready to go in five minutes with two days rations and 25 extra cartridges in our pockets and to take nothing but overcoats and blankets with us. We were ready on time and went to the railroad track and waited there for half an hour and then the cars came along and three Regts got on the cars. they were stock cars. We were very much crowded and had to stand up but then it was riding. There was two engines for about half way and we run fast. One of the engines went back and after that it was slow running.

We arrived at Franklin a little after dark and formed in a corn field—stood there for an hour then pulled corn stocks and made beds and went to roost. I went in the cars and had slept two hours when the cars began to move when we had to leave for fear of being

carried back. It was then one O'clock. made myself a cup of tea in my tin cup, laid down on the ground and slept till morning got up and got our breakfast of tea and hard crackers. it rained a little during the night.

In the morning we heard the account of the engagement. Col. Gilbert¹ was commander of the post. he sent the 1st Brig. of our Div. under Col. Coburn out to skirmish with the enemy on Wednesday. he drove the enemy before him on that day. on Thursday morning he found that the enemy had been reenforced and sent back to Gilbert for orders and reenforcements. he got word to go ahead. he did so with a great deal of reluctance skirmishing in front very carefully. he had a train of 80 wagons with him and the 18 Ohio battery. The 33rd, 85th Ind, 19th Mich, 22nd Wis. composed the Brigade all fine Regts. the 33rd an old one, in all 2500 men.

In afternoon the enemy appeared in large force in front. he found he could not advance any farther and sent for help but Gilbert would not move (although there was two batteries and five Regts itching for fight. Millers Chicago battery had 1000 rounds of ammunition and wanted to move back) he attempted to move back but found that the enemy had surrounded him. the battery was placed on a hill but there was four Rebels Batteries against it and three Regts charged in it. the battery poured grape into them until they were within 50 yards of them. when he started and found a Regt in his rear he went on the run, dragging one horse over half a mile. he run right through the Regt, kill some of them and some of his own men but got all of his guns safe. part of the 22nd Wis got back with the train. out of the 2500 only 500 got back to camp. The enemy were supposed to be 15 or 20,000 strong. Such are the accounts that we hear of the fight.²

We done nothing yesterday but stand or sit in the rain. There was two more Regts and the 9th Ohio battery came during the morning. About five teams came with our tents and knapsacks. We pitched tents in a hard rain got our supper and went to bed. had plenty of straw to sleep on. it rained hard all night.

everything is mud this morning but we are all feeling well and in good spirits. Baird and Granger are both here. I heard that Gilbert is to be arrested for his conduct. if he had went to Coburns assistance he could have saved the 1st Brigade.

1. H. C. Gilbert, 19th Michigan Infantry.

2. Engagement at Thompson's Station, March 4 and 5, 1863. The Union troops were outnumbered by 2 to 1. Gen Nathan Bedford Forrest's cavalry met Col. John Coburn's break-through charge with one of their own. Most of the 33rd and 85th Indiana, 19th Michigan Infantry regiments and 200 men in the 22nd Wisconsin, 1700 in all, surrendered. The battery and most of the 22nd Wis. got out.

One thing shure that Atkins will never get his Brigade in such a trap as he is very cautious and at the same time bold. he has the confidence of his men and I dont believe he has his superior around.

The railroad bridge at Franklin was burned but is repaired and will be ready to run over on Monday. I have not seen the town as it is across the creek. The nigurs are digging fourts here as fast as possible. Rosecranses orders are to fortify this place strong. there are good natural advantages for fortifying around here. The enemy are about five miles from here.

We are on the extreme right of the army. There are very strong pickets out all the time both of calvary and infantry. There are onley three places that they can cross the creek and they are strongly guarded. There is not much danger of their attacking us here and we will not move unless the whole army moves.

Croff was with the Co. and had his gun. all clerks have to turn out when there is danger of a fight. Write as often as you can. We had very cold weather the fore part of the week for the suny south. It froze two inches of ice in a pan of water. The spring is very backward here I should judge as the grass has scarcley started.

We hear that Capt Brice has got the money for our board and put it in his own pocket. if we had knowen it before he left we would have skined him. Make him fork over my \$6.40 if you can. I will close and clean my gun.

from Ed Cort

I will keep you posted of our movements. Ed

Camp near Franklin, Tenn.

March 13, 1863

Dear Friends,

I recieved two letters and three papers from home yesterday evening. Since I last wrote we have had a very hard trip. On last Monday we left our camp here taking three days rations in our haversacks and two teams with the Regt with two days more and thirty rounds of cartridges in our pockets.

Monday was a very fine day. we marched 13 miles, our cavalry skermishing all day taking 25 prisoners and killing three and getting three killed and four wounded. We passed the battle ground where the 1st Brig was defeated.

We camped one mile south of the villiage of spring hill. we had our blankets and overcoats and gum blankets with us. laid down on ground with a few corn stalks under us. slept well until 2 when it began to rain, put our gum blanket over and slept till four, got up made a tin full of coffee and eat breakfast still raining hard.

Stood around the fire until 9 when our Co was ordered out on picket. went out stood until one when we were ordered to camp. started on the march once more, marched 7 miles camped in the woods still raining hard, built a rail pen, laid our gum blankets over it, cut some cornstalks, built a fire, got our supper, laid down to sleep pretty tolerbly wet with the enemy about one and half miles a head of us across a creek.

Were ordered into line of battle at four. it had quit raining and cleared off and was cool. we were all pretty stiff. stood in line until eight when the big guns began to fire. were ordered back about ten rods into a ravine, built fires and got some thing to eat, were kept under arms all day. the canon did not fire much. the enemy threw four shells, one lighting about eighty rods from us.

The rebels were mostley across a small river except a few that were on this side of the river but across mud creek. Our cavalry were scouting all day. we had a good bed that night and a big fire. we could see the enemys camp fires and in day time could some times see a squad of them.

On Thursday morning were in line at five, stood until eight on near the line when we started on the back track marching very fast. it made my feet sore and I got a chance to get into a wagon that belonged to the cavalry and rode nine miles. We got back to Franklin at four in the afternoon having marched 20 miles after eight Oclock except what I rode, the first time that I have rode since I have been in the service.

Sheridens³ Division was with us. McCook⁴ about 10 miles on our left and Jeff C Davis⁵ seven or eight miles to our right. Gen Granger was our commander. Why we came back is more than I can tell but I supose it is all right. There was about 3000 cavalry with us and six batteries. I dont know the number of infantry. Some Ohio boys that have been in the service 18 months say that it was about as hard a tramp as they ever had or in the worst weather. What will be the next move is hard to tell. Old Rosey is planning it all himself and we have to do as directed.

I like your position Jo in regard to politics first rate. it is the right track. I think the Emancipation act has done a great deal of harm to the cause as we can not get the niggars with out fighting for them and after we take them they are contrabands and we could have used them as we pleased without the Emancipation act wich

3. Phillip Henry Sheridan, Union general.

4. Col. Daniel McCook, one of ten brothers from the "tribe of Dan" and five cousins "tribe of John", the fighting McCooks of Ohio, all of whom served in the Union Army.

5. Jefferson Columbus Davis, Union general from Indiana.

turned a great many that would have been union men and strengthened the rebels cause and made them fight harder.

Our squad have not had any Lice yet. we are very careful. there is none in the Co now. there was a few after we were on the boat amongst the dirty ones. I am not troubled with the camp di-rehrea like most of the other boys. I had it once but a dose of salts cured me. I have had a touch of rumetism in my knees. most of the men have had a little touch of it this kind of weather.

There is considerable talk that we are onley 9 months men and will be discharged in May as we came in under the last call or in place of drafted men. my love to all from Ed Cort

Jo, do the best you can about the farming. it is a bad plan to let any lay over with out farming.

Camp near Franklin, Tenn.
March 17, 1863

Dear Friends,

I put off writing this morning expecting to get a letter in to days mail as I recd two papers yesterday and I always get the papers one day ahead of the letter. The papers come very good to us. I reced a letter from cousin Ruth yesterday. they were all well when writen.

My health is good at present. The rest of the Reynolds boys are getting a long well. Wade Herington is still in the hospital at Nashville but expects to join the Co. soon. There has been another man died out of this co. his name was Thomas Taley. his father was with him for about 10 days. he lived north of Jeferson Grove.

The weather has been very fine and warm for a few days back. I see a few flowrs in bloom and a large flowring Almond in bloom close to camp. They are fortifyin this place as fast as they can. there are 10 men detailed out of each Co every day to work on them. There was four (4) large Siege guns came on the cars to day for the fort. It is sayed the rebels intend to make an atack on this place soon but we are ready for them.

We had a *grand* review on last Saturday before Maj Gen Granger and Brig Gen Baird. there was 14 Regts of infantry, four Batteries and some Cavalry. they looked splendid. Their are five Regts in our Brigade now, The 92nd on the Right, 115th next, 96th Ill. next, 84th Ind. next and the 40th Ohio on the left, Col. Atkins commanding.

A regt is generly numbered at 1000 men but very few Regts that have been in six months can muster 500 effective men at one time. our Regt can hardley do that now. our Co on the last march, officers and all, was just 50 men. Some 8 or 10 were left in camp

that were not able to go. The rest are scattered arround in the hospitals except ten that are detailed on other service. There are four that tried to enlist on the Gunboats as they were coming from the hospitals to Join the Regt, Sim Reynolds and Jeff Horton, the others you do not know. They would not take Sim and he is at St. Louis in the Hospital.

I think likely that this will be our camp head quarters for some time to come. we may go out on scouts of three or four days but leave our tents here I think.

Wednesday Morning, Mar. 18

I did not get my letter ready for the mail yesterday and will add a little this morning. Mag wrote that D. R. Bowles says that Croff can resign and come home any time he wants. I would like to know how a private can resign. he is onley detailed out of the co. to clerk at the Q Masters and has to come in the Co. in case of a battle. He gets extra pay for his work and has got a very good place. it suits him better than regular soldiers duty.

I send you a copy of the resolutions got up by the shoulder straps of this Brigade, I supose for the sake of Capital at home. I think that more could be said in half of the words. Our Regt got up some which I hear are printed in the Chicago papers. I did not hear them read as I was on duty when they were read and voted on. I was not on dress parade when these were adopted.

It is rumored that there are 50,000 rebs coming here from Vicksburg and that they will likely give us a call as they come along. we have the siege guns planted in the fort and are ready for them.

When you write let me know how much wheat you intend to put in and how much ground you got fall ploughed and all the particulars about the farm and stock.

I have no news of importance to write and I guess I had better quit as I have a very poor pen. My love to all from Ed

PREAMBLE AND RESOLUTIONS

Adopted by the
SECOND BRIGADE, GENERAL BAIRD'S DIVISION
IN CAMP NEAR NASHVILLE, TENN.,
March 2, 1863.

Headquarters 2d Brigade, Gen. Baird's Division, Camp near Nashville, Tenn., March 2, 1863

At a meeting of the Field, Staff and Line Officers of this Brigade, (composed of the 84th Indiana, 92d Illinois, 96th Illinois, and 115th Illinois Regiments of Infantry, and the 9th Ohio Battery,) held at

Brigade Headquarters this day, at 9 o'clock, A.M., Col. SMITH D. ATKINS was called to the Chair, and Adj. I. C. LAWVER appointed Secretary. The following preamble and resolutions were read, separately acted upon, and adopted with entire unanimity. The same were read at the head of each Regiment and the Battery, this afternoon, at dress parade, and acted upon by the soldiers, with the result certified to below.

PREAMBLE AND RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, We, the Officers and Soldiers of this command, have, in common with our comrades in arms, cheerfully periled our lives and every earthly interest, to save to ourselves and to our posterity a Country and a Government, the same which, in historic times, were bought with blood, and established by that quality of wisdom which, though human, seems divine; and,

WHEREAS, A number of intriguing demagogues at home have recently, by word and act, sought to create disaffection among us, block the wheels of wise legislation, excite discontent in the public mind, and, in every way, to baffle all earnest efforts to conquer the rebels; therefore,

RESOLVED, That we hold in utter detestation that clique of miscreants in the loyal States, who, under the garb of assumed loyalty, use the stolen revenue of arch treason to excite petty treason in their own communities; who have no censures, save for the officers of our government—no complaints, save that energetic measures are employed to crush the rebellion—no aspirations, save to embarrass our Executive and Legislative Departments, and engender mutinies in our armies—and no hopes, save for an ignoble peace and the substantial triumph of the rebels; that we regard them as enemies to our country and mankind, who to accomplish their hellish purposes, would not hesitate to blot forever from the hopes of man the cherished thought of self-government; and that they merit the scorn of all loyal citizens and true-hearted soldiers, combining, as they do, the deep guilt of the traitor with the essential meanness of the coward.

RESOLVED, That, despite the frenzied efforts of our foes before us, and the despicable intrigues of our other foes behind us, we will not abate one jot of faith or hope; but, believing the maintenance of our government is worth all the cost expended in its establishment, we emphatically assure all traitors at home, that not until we have undergone a seven-years' struggle, (if need be,) will we cease

this contest, and not until we have experienced such sufferings as were bravely endured at Valley Forge, will we begin to murmur. By all the sacrifices already made and hardships endured by us—by all the sufferings of our comrades in hospital and camp—by all the precious blood which has encrimsoned our Eastern and Western waters—by all the hearths made desolate, and heart-strings rent asunder, because of this wicked rebellion—we do solemnly pledge our honor as Americans and soldiers to see this contest through to a successful issue, or yield up our lives a willing sacrifice to our country's weal.

RESOLVED, That we are utterly opposed to any armistice or cessation of hostilities until our glorious flag of thirty-four stars waves triumphantly from the dome of every Capitol in our land.

RESOLVED, That we fully and unequivocally endorse the policy of our civil rulers, in using all necessary means to strike decisive blows at the unholy rebellion, and to bring the war to a speedy, sure and glorious termination, so that traitors in the North may be brought to a terrible justice, "that hemp be not created in vain."

RESOLVED, That to the loyal millions who encourage us in our efforts, who sympathize with us in our hardships, and who rejoice with us in the successes of our armies, we tender such heartfelt gratitude as soldiers, facing a hostile foe, only can feel.

RESOLVED, That to Governor TOD, of Ohio, Governor MORTON, of Indiana, and Governor YATES, of Illinois, we extend our hearty thanks for their ceaseless labors in behalf of the soldiers from their respective States.

ACTION OF THE SOLDIERS.

Col. S. D. ATKINS: Sir: The 84th Indiana Volunteers adopted the preamble and resolutions, submitted to them this evening at dress parade, unanimously.

March 2, 1863. SAMUEL ORR, Lt. Col. Comdg.

Col. S. D. ATKINS: Sir: The vote of the 96th Illinois Volunteer Infantry was given, without a single dissenting voice, in favor of the preamble and resolutions.

March 2, 1863. THOS. E. CHAMPION, Col. Comdg. Regt.

COL. S. D. ATKINS: Sir: The soldiers of the 92d Illinois Volunteers adopted the preamble and resolutions with enthusiastic unanimity.

March 2, 1863.

B. F. SHEETS, Lt. Col. Comdg. Regt.

COL. S. D. ATKINS: Sir: The vote upon the preamble and resolutions, by the men of the 115th Illinois Infantry, was unanimously in favor, excepting forty six dissenting.

March 2, 1863.

WM. KINNMAN, Lt. Col. Comdg.

COL. S. D. ATKINS: Sir: The vote of the 9th Ohio Battery, on the preamble and resolutions submitted this evening, was entirely unanimous in the affirmative.

March 2, 1863

H. A. TALLMADGE, 1st Lieut. Comdg Battery
SMITH D. ATKINS,
Chairman

I. C. LAWVER, Secretary.

Camp near Franklin, Tenn.

March 26, 1863

Dear Friends,

I had expected to have recieved a letter from you yesterday but it did not come as night before last the rebs got in betwene here and Nashville, tore up the track and took some prisoners and cut of our communacations with Nashville.

The enemy are trying to surround this place. they are strongly posted on our south and are trying to come up on our flanks. We are 9,000 strong here at present. The enemy are under Van Dorn and are said to be 25,000 or 30,000 strong mostly mounted. Our cavalry were skermishing with them all day yesterday and took a good many prisoners.

I was working on the fortifications yesterday. they are in rather an incomplete condition yet but are getting finished fast. The first fort was planned by Gilbert. when Granger came he tore it down and started another. Gilberts was an 8 by 10 consern and would not have amounted to much. The present works are larger and in a more prominent position for defence. it runs about 150 yards along the river (Harpeth) bank which is very high and rocky.

It has been very fine weather here for sometime. yesterday was quite cool. The peach trees are in bloom and I tell you they are plenty of trees. every corner is full of them. I will send you some blossoms. I do not know how soon this will get through.

Nelsons commission as Capt has come, also Baileys as 2nd Lieut. Nettleton is orderly now. Dan Hastings is still sick back in the hospital at Lexington, Ky. Wade Herinton is back with the Co and is all right again. he had the Quinsey and for eight days could eat nothing except a very little soup. Brinkley Pierce has got his discharge and gone home.

We have to get up every morning at four and put on our accoutrements and be ready to turn out at any time. Last night we had to sleep with them on and in the afternoon stood in line most of the time.

Ed Cort

Camp half way betwene Nashville and Franklin
March 29, 1863, Near Brentwood Station

Dear Friends,

You will see by the heading of this we have changed our place of residence again. On the 27th at 4½ PM we got orders to strike tents, pack up and be ready to march in 30 minuits. Started on the Nashville pike. as usual it began to rain as soon as we were on the road.

marched six miles then stood in the road while the 9th Ohio Battery and 96st Ill were crossing a creek that the bridge was burnt down. had to wait a couple of hours. finealy came to the creek, had to ford it. some of the boys got in over knee deep. I did not get my feet wet as my boots were high.

At last we camped about nine miles from Franklin on the ground where the Rebels took the rest of the 22nd Wis. and 19 Mich. prisoners on the 25th⁶. it was about 11. the wagon came up when it began to pour down so hard that we could not do anything. we got our tent off and stuck up by one. we had no stakes so we stuck our bayonets in for tent stakes, spred our gum blankets in the mud and lay down to sleep. slept sound untill 4½ when our Co had to turn out for picket. it had quit raining. not more than two thirds of the Co turned out. were stationed on top of a high knob where we could see over the surrounding country. Was relieved at 9 AM.

Saw the camp where the rebs surprised our men. they burnt up their tents as soon as they found that they were going to be taken. The rebels burnt the railroad bridge across the creek, tore up a good lot of track. Stayed until Friday morning, then skeddled. they were 5 or 7,000 strong.

We moved our camp about 1½ miles to the railroad bridge. We have a splendid camp ground now. The 92nd, 96th and 9th Ohio Battery are here to guard the railroad. Aitkins commands. also a Bat. of the 6th Ky Cavalry are here with us.

We expect to get our mail today at 10 as the cars run this far. It is rumored that Jeff C. Davis is at Franklin and in command there. I hope it is so as I do not think much of Granger.

6. Action at Brentwood, March 25, 1863. Regiment surrounded and captured by Forrest.

There was a lot of men detailed this morning to fell trees for fortifying us against the reb cavalry. if they should try us a clip **they** will find that Atkins is not sleeping. There is a sort of a stockade close by the track.

This morning it has cleared and is very windy and cool. We have a good fire in our tent and feel very comfortable. got a good suply of straw. I expect to get a lot of letters today.

My love to all from C. E. Cort

Brentwood Station, Tenn.

March 31, 1863

Dear Friends,

I recieved a letter from Maggie day before yesterday and one from Joe and Arth yesterday one dated the 16th the other the 20th. Was very glad to get them after being so long without any word from home.

I had sent a letter the same day but do not remember wheather I sent any particulars about my health or not. I sometimes never think of saying any thing about it. From the last letter you appear to think that I am on my last legs. I think if you could see me you would not think so.

As to *that* rumatism the reason that I did not write was because I had written the morning before I got lame and when I wrote again I was well. The reson that I rode was because the bottoms of my feet were sore as I had wore shoes in place of my boots.

I was more unwell and looked worse when Capt. Brice went home than I have at any other time. I onley weighted 120 lbs. then. now I weigh 132 lbs. the same as I weighed when I left home. At Mt Sterling I weighed 139.

The time that Uncle Will saw me I expect we all looked hard as we had had a pretty hard tramp. As to my working I have a good idea of taking care of number one and not hurting myself. Still I find it is better to keep arround even if you feel a little bad than to give up and lie in the tent. There are more soldiers get sick through lazyness than any thing els.

The Co are out on picket today. I was on guard last night and was not relieved until they were gone so I will have a lonesome time for 24 hours. there are 10 or 12 here yet.

If you do not recieve any letter from me for a good while some times do not be uneasy as our communication is liable to be cut off any time and then we may be on a march or the letter may be

miscarried. Arthur wants to know if my suspenders are wore out no they are good yet. Will must be careful and not get hurt so much. I did not pay the Capt for the saddle. Mag, you must learn to sit and stand straight or you will injure your health.

We got word yesterday that Dan Hastings died of cronic diarrah on the 23rd in Lexington, Ky. If you can help it do not go in with Walker for a leader as he had trouble with every one he was in with. you know he will do nothing but ride and is a great deal more paticular about his own than anybody elses.

We have a splendid place to camp here and will probably stay some time. All the boys are sending orders for their money. I will one also. they are on D.C. May. I must close as the mail will soon go.

love to all from Ed Cort

I have no money but can get a long pretty well without any. there is not much to buy unless a little milk or something while on picket. no telling when we will get our pay five months due.

(Diary)

April 4, 1863 Was detailed for forage expedition. about 200 guards went along. went six miles over very rough roads, rode there and walked back. got corn and hogs.

April 5 Co. went on picket. rumors that the rebs were coming. pickets were doubled, day fine.

Camp near Brentwood, Tenn.

April 6, 1863

Dear Friends,

I have been looking for a letter for three or four days but it has not come. My health is as usual. We came off picket this morning. the Co. was out. It takes four Co's of infantry every day for picket so you see we are on picket every five days. We are pretty well fortifyed now and are waiting for the Rebs to come at us.

Dud Whitehead has got his discharge and gone home. I supose you will see him before you get this. he left on last Thursday. Fred Walgmawth, that is the young fellow that worked at Otto Weststien, is very sick and not expected to live. he has the Lung and Typhoid fever. he is in the Regimental hospital and is well attended.

The days are very fine and warm but it has froze every night this month yet except last night. I think the peaches are mostly killed.

There is not much stir in this department. Rosecrans is acting mostly on the defensive waiting operations elsewhere. he has his lines well fortified. There was a body of about 5000 Rebels advancing toward this place yesterday morning but our cavalry from Franklin pitched into them and they skedaddled back with some loss.

We all think that appearances are more favorable for the close of the war than it has been yet. the rebels are reported to be on half rations for some time back. their object of making the last raid in Ky was to get provisions as they were about starved out in Tenn. There is not going to be any crops raised in this part this season as the fences are in a bad condition mostly burned up by the soldiers. the enemy have depended on this part of the country for provisions to a considerable extent ever since the war began.

excuse this scribble as I was up last night and am in a hurry to get it ready for the train. love to all from Chas E. Cort

(Diary)

April 6 Was relieved at 9 AM Fred Walgemath died this afternoon at five in camp hospital.

CHAPTER VII

REPULSE OF VAN DORN'S ATTACK ON FRANKLIN

Franklin, Tenn.

April 11, 1863

Dear Friends,

We are back at Franklin again. we had got our camp fortified and things fixed up nice when we had to leave. On the 8th at 3 PM got orders to get ready to march back to Franklin, got started at four, arrived at Franklin after dark. Six Regts took our place at Brentwood.

My health is good. The rest of the Reynolds boys are well excepting Ben Noe. he has not been fit for duty for some time.

We had another chase after the rebels yesterday¹. About 2 oclock in the afternoon we heard firing south of us. were ordered into line. were placed 80 rods back of the camp. the firing had got to be pretty brisk. the guns in the fort and one battery had opened fire. the 40th Ohio was on picket. We lay in line for about 2 hours when we were ordered to cross the river, five Regts of infantry, 9th Ohio battery, the 92nd in the lead. the canon had ceased firing.

When we got to the pontoon bridge we found the enemy had been closer than we thought for. They made a very bold dash. Charged the pickets which were very strong but were repulsed three times, finealy broke through and dashed through town. five of them headed by a Major rode to the pontoon bridge which

1. Skirmish, Harpeth River, near Franklin, April 10, 1863.

is within 300 yds of the fort. the guard at the bridge fired, killed three and wounded the other two. the Majors horse fell and he was taken prisoner. they must have been drunk.

They tryed to plant a battery within three quarters of a mile of the fort when the ol Sieges opened on them and drove them back. We saw 10 dead rebs and two of ours laying on the road. we went out four miles in a south east direction about dark, got up to our advance. The skermishers were firing briskly. we filed to the left, formed line of battle. we could see the bullets striking the road a few rods ahead of us. one or two passed over our heads.

We advanced about 80 rods when we found a heavy force on our left. found it Gen Stanley² with a large force of cavalry. he had had a brisk engagement in the morning, captured 5 canon and 300 prisoners and was coming to our help. the enemy fell back double quick. we lay on a corn field until 10½ Oclock when we went back to camp. got in camp at 12.

We find this morning that the Rebs paid pretty dearly for their boldness. up 'till dark last night we had found 147 dead rebels. the 40th Ohio lost two killed and 7 wounded and missing. they would lay down and wait till the rebs would come close then fire when almost every man would empty a saddle. the artillery killed some. The 4th regulars sufered considerably under Stanly in their engagement. the battery was taken and retaken 5 times but they finealy held it.

Every thing is quiet this morning. 7 Regt of cavalry went out this morning but we hear nothing like an engagement. there is a pretty large force here now. I must close. love to all Ed Cort

Franklin, Tenn.

April 14, 1863

Dear Friends,

I received Joes & Wills letter on last Sabbath also three papers the day before Post, Standard & Harper. was very glad to get both letter and papers. I got a letter from Cousin Ruth yesterday. they were all well.

My health is very good now, better than it has been since I came into Tenn. Our Regt was the out side infantry on the south side of the river on Sabbath. We expected the Rebs to come in but they did not. we would have given them the best we had in our cartridge boxes if they had come. We signed the pay rolls yesterday and expect to get some pay this week.

2. David Sloan Stanley, Union general in command of the cavalry corp of the Cumberland.

The weather is still pretty cool I think for this climate. there was a heavy rain last night. this morning is very pleasant. There has been two promotions in the Co. which took most of the men by surprise. They were a man named Preston that had belonged to the brass band and had never done much duty. he was made 2nd Sergt. he was an old acquaintance of Lieut Col. Sheets.

The other C. B. Bowles. he was made 3rd Sergt. he has never done any duty in the Co. to signafy and had a very easy place. in fact there are a great many things he don't know anything about but he had got some acquaintance with Sheets while he was clerking for the Adjutant's. he sayed Bowles ought to have some office and Nelson wants to curry favors with the Col. and wanted some one to do his writing so he put Bowles in although the co. were all against it.

Since he has got to be Capt. he feels very big and has got all of the boys down on him worse than they were on Capt. Brice. Nelson was thought a great deal of while he was orderly and could command the respect and attention of the Co. but now he does every thing in such a Lordly style that boys all laugh and make fun of him as soon as he turns his back. Keep this quiet. Nelson will be a good Leader in a battle I think and that is all I care for as I have the easiest office there is in the Co. although the wages are \$4.00 less than a Sergt.

I suppose you hear that the rbels are starved out and have nothing to eat. I dont believe a word of it for the rebs that were killed had their haversacks filled with corn bread and pork and It will soon be time for to get fresh vegetables in Miss and Ala. if we have to wait until they are starved before they give up it will be after this.

My love to all.

Ed Cort

Franklin, Tenn.

April 17

Dear Friends,

I recieved your letter of the 9th at noon and was glad to hear that you were all in your common state of health. I am enjoying very good health at present. The weather is pretty warm here now especialy yesterday and today.

Your letter sayed that you onley reced a letter from me in 8 days. there must be some lost as I write about three every two weeks. I got a letter yesterday from Cyrus Cort³. I will send it in this.

3. Cyrus Cort, a first cousin.

There has been no change Since I last wrote that I know of. We have been looking for the Rebs to come in to visit us for some time but they don't come. We are in line at four Oclock in the morning and stand until after day light, then stack guns and go and get our breakfast. after breakfast get our guns and go about our usual employment.

We began Target shooting to day for the first and it is to be carried on in a systematic way. all the Co are to be numbered and every one's shot to be recorded and classed. It is sayed that we are to draw shelter tents soon and then every man will have to carry his own house or rather every two as two are put together. I hope Uncle Sam will keep them to him self as I dont want to carry them.

We recieved our pay on last Wednesday evening. we got four months pay. Mine was \$52.00. I will send \$35.00 home. There is a man here from Ogle Co. and he is going to take it with him. he will not leave till next week. His name is Campbell. he is agent for the Byron Sanitary Comm. You get yours at Parkers⁴, Lane, as the rest are sending to him.

If you Please send me \$1.00 worth postage stamps. I got some of the other ones wet and spoiled. I had them in the wrong pocket. Prehaps the letters will go better with stamps on. We cant get stamps short of Nashville and cant get a chance to send there.

They are going to build three more forts here and are at work on them now so that we will have this place strong after while and will defy a pretty strong force. I write again soon. Supper is ready and I must close. Good Night

From Ed.

Franklin, Tenn. April 23, 1863

Dear Friends,

I recieved your letter and papers that were mailed the 16th and of course was very glad to hear from you. I am enjoying very good health. We just came off picket this morning and have nothing to do today so I thought I would write you a few lines altho there is nothing of any importance to communicate.

The rebs are sayed to have fell back three or four miles and have given up their intention of attacking for present at least. Their forces are most entirley cavalry. consequently as we have but one Brigade of cavalry here we can not advance against them or move forward or they will get to our rear as they did at Brentwood and cut off our suplys.

I think it would be a very good move to mount two or three of our Brigades here in this department as we are very short of

4. Parker's, a general store at Lane (now Rochelle, Illinois).

cavalry, then mounted infantry are better suited to the purpose as they can dismount and infantry can whip double their number of cavalry easily especially in timber and rough country.

Our shelter tents are here and we will put them up this afternoon. I will give you a description of them when we get them up and try them. I will either turn over my overcoat, send it home or throw it away as I will not carry it but will do the best I can for it. I hardly think we will do much marching for some time as there are three forts to build and they are to be finished as soon as possible. There are ten men out of each Co at work on them every day and between that and guard duty it takes most of the force busy. The general order is to have one tenth of forces on picket duty every day to prevent surprise.

Mr. Lyon had some things come in a box yesterday. The things for me were not got in. The box was nine days coming from Lane until they got it here. It was for Bob Mills, Haymaker and Lyon. If you send anything send things that will not break or spoil on the road. Butter goes the best of any that comes and can be put in cans.

I will for this time as news is scarce and I feel some sleepy and want to take a nap before dinner. The rest of the Reynolds boys are well. the general health of the Co is better than it has been since we left Mt. Sterling, Ky.

I sent you the Nashville Union an abolition sheet.

My love to all Ed Cort

Franklin, Tenn. April 24, 1863

Dear Friends,

As I am not on duty to day I thought I would take the opportunity to write you a few lines by way to let you know that I am enjoying good health. I have not recieved any letter from you since I last wrote. The rest of the Reynolds boys are well as usual. I heard today that C. N. Reynolds has lost two of his children. The weather is pretty warm here now day times but still cool at night.

Well we have got our shelter tents and I like them better than I thought I would. Each man has a piece of linen (something like them old pants I use to have) 5½ ft square with buttons and button holes on three sides. two of them are buttoned together & makes a shelter tent for two men. We can button as many together as you wish. we have four together and four sleep under it.

We take two sticks about four feet high and sharpen them a little to run through the loop holes, set them on the ground then two stakes on each side and one each end to tie the stay ropes to

and you have a shelter tent set up. It is four feet high in the center, 5½ long and wide enough to stretch out in. Cant tell wheather they will turn rain or not as it has not rained since we got them.

We have drawn hats. they are high crowned black felt hats. I tell you I look gay in one of them but they keep off the sun pretty well.

On last saturday our Regt was out felling trees. there are about 600 men engaged every day chopping down trees so as to give the artillery full sweep. One that has never seen it has no idea of the distruction of property where an army are fortifying.

We heard a lot of cavalry going out last night about 2 Oclock. we were up earlier than usual and had got our breakfast over when we all at once got the order to fall in. instanter we got in line and marched over the river and were going through town when we halted a little while then turned and came back. We met the cavalry coming back. they had surprised a reble camp about 7 miles and captured 125 prisoners and 150 horses and mules and did not loose a man. About 40 Rebs excaped that were on pickets. The mules were fat and the horses looked pretty well so you see they have plenty of corn.

The men were the dirtiest and raggedest set that I ever saw but fat and healthy looking. There was a great many that were mere boys and some old men. there was no uniform in their dress. They were Texans and did not seem a bit concerned about being taken. they were laughing and joking with each other.

There are about 1,500 men at work every day on the fortifications. Last night there was an order read from Gen Rosecrans that every Co had to mess together. It did not take very well. there are to be two cooks for each Co. they are relieved from every kind of duty and have to cook according to certain recipes that were also read. if it is done according to orders it will be all right. if not it will be a humbug. We have not as good a chance to cook as squads now as we did before we got the shelter tents. I will close for to night and prehaps scratch a little in the morning. Good evening,

Ed

Tuesday morning, April 28, 1863

We had our tents tried as to their water turning qualities last night and they turned the rain very good. Most of us sent our overcoats home. they were directed to Coldity. I thought they were going to Parker and directed mine in his care but I guess you will get it at Coldity's. We sent the money by the U.S. disbursing offi-

cer that is appointed by the President for to take care of the money for the Ill. soldiers. You will get it (\$35.00) at Parkers.

When the coat comes look over it for fear that there might be some Greyback's on it. I have never had any about me but there may be some on the other things that went in the barrel as there are a few in the Co. now.

Latest. There is no news of importance this morning. **All is quiet on the Harpeth as far as heard from.** The prisoners were all sent to Nashville yesterday in the cars.

Joe wanted me to send him that nigger I promised to send him. I would advise him not to have any thing to do with Colored pursons as one of them would be more trouble than me and a good deal lazier. The fact of the case is that most of the nigger loving individuals of Co. H have cooled some what in their love and are the worst enemies the poor darky has and think he is better off in slavery than out of it which is about true considering his present ignorent state. Gradual emancipation is the onley policy that will ever improve the condition of the slave. They have an idea that if they go north they can live without work.

I will close this. love to all

C. E. Cort

Franklin Tennessee, May 4, 1863

Dear Friends,

I recieved your letter and papers a few days ago and was very glad to hear from you and to know that you had got along so well with your seeding.

I had intended writing on Saturday but the Regt was ordered out on picket. We expect an attach yesterday morning. Rosecrans telegraphed to Granger that the rebs were coming in so we had to be pretty watchful toward morning. our posts were drawn in after dark about 80 rods and three men more sent me. we were about 60 rods ahead of the reserves of the Regt.

The cavalry pickets are stationed about 100 rods farther out than the infantry with a scout or two still farther out. some time the cavalry pickets are three or four miles farthur out. The infantry form a regular chain of vedetts along the line generally about 20 to 40 rods apart, some times closer, with the relief posts a few rods back. I like picket duty better than any other duty we do although the noncommissioned officers dont get any sleep if they are in charge of a post.

My health is very good. I weight heavier than I have done since I enlisted, 140 lbs. The rest of the Reynolds boys are in

their usual health. We had inspection and muster on last Thursday morning and done no fatigue duty as it was Fast day on Friday.

The Gen sent orders to let no one leave camp as an attack was expected. Our Cavalry and Gilberts Brigade had went out on a scout in the night and got back at 9 AM. the Cavalry killed 22 and took 12 prisoners without any loss on our side.

We get the news fresh now. we can get the Nashville union every day, the Louisville, Cincinnati and St. Louis papers one day old and there are always a dozen or so bought in the Co. every day. They cost 10 cts each. Our amusement now days is mostley pitching quoits. you can see some at it all the time. Squire Haymaker was here yesterday. He came to see his son who is sick in the hospital in Nashville. He is better now.

It would be a good sight here now to a person that had never seen a large camp. our Brigade is camped around in the out side of a square open to the west. at the present time the 9th Ohio battery is drillin, the Adjutant is mounting the pickets for this side of the river and the splendid brass band of the 22nd Wis. is playing for them and every thing is in motion.

We are in the finest country the inhabittance claim in the world and I think it hard to beat. in any direction you look it has the appearance of being hilly but the hills are steep and there is very little ground taken up by them. they are all covered with timber and the valleys are in a high state of cultivation.

The town of Franklin is in the Harpeth valley and has been a fine place for its size which I would suppose to have about 1,200. The houses are all built back from the streets and nice flower beds in front. the evergreens here are very fine and abundant. There is said to have been 11 Co's raised in and around the town for the rebel army. it is now almost deserted and presents a very desolate appearance.

The fearful effects of war can be seen every where. some of the finest timber I ever saw has been cut down. fences ar no wher to be seen. houses that a few months ago were hid by fine shade and forest trees are standing deserted both by inhabittance and shade trees. There is a man near camp who has a fine lot of large forest trees, I suppose about 100 in number in front of his house and he offers to pay the government \$5.00 per tree if they are left standing but it will have no effect. they must come down when thire turn comes.

There is a very fine house about 20 rods from where the picket post is that I have been on a couple of times. the man is a good

union man and has got passes from two or three Gens. but if his cows go ten rods to the right of his house he cannot go after them. (There goes my ink over the paper.) He wanted to walk a few rods with his family in the evening (three of the family by the way are nice young ladies) and had to ask premision to go ten rods out of the door yard.

Another man lives between the infantry and cavalry pickets and on Saturday was out of every thing that was eatable and could not get either way to get any thing and it is awful hard work to break enough **Red tape** to get to move even to save life.

Another one that lives inside the lines and has been a good union man got out of eatables and applyed to Granger to get a pass to go to mill which is just out side of the lines and could not get his attention to such trifles. he then tryed to get to Nashville where he had property. finealy he stole to Nashville and got a pass to come back from Mitchel. Such proceedings, with the help of the Abolition sheet Nashville Union, are doing much to augment the feeling of **some** especially where it is not very strong.

We have got a new Chaplain. his name is Cartwright. he is from the neighborhood of Mt. Morris of the Metodist denomination. he appears to be very ernest in his work but has got the regular shouting style.

Nelson has not been well for a few days. he is threatened with the feaver. I got a letter from Clay Minier yesterday.

I expect my letters are very dull but you know that letter writing was never my forte and you will have to make alowances. I expect you cant read it. send it back then and I will. Give my love to all from Ed

Franklin, Tenn. May 9, 1863

Dear Friends,

I rec'd Joes letter mailed on May 1st a few days and the papers the next day. Was glad to hear from you and that you were prospering.

My health is very good. in fact the Co are all in good health and in the best spirits I ever saw them although they come on duty most every day. We have been having a spell of weather here for a few days. it rained most of this week and was very chilly but today is very fine and clear.

Gilberts Brigade moved over to the other side of the river the fore part of the week so I supose picketing by Regt. is over for a while. they are cutting down timber.

I see by yesterdays paper that Granger is to go to Nashville to take command there. I hope Baird will be left to command here. The late papers have very good news from Hooker⁵ and that there is a very heavy battle going on near Fredricksburg. I am in hopes that he will give them a bad defeat and be able to take Richmond but he has a hard Gen. to oppose in Lee and if he whips him, he can whip any Gen. the Rebs have.

There is nothing going on here now but fortifying. we dont here any thing more of the rebels but we still have to be into line at four and stand on drill until sunup which we do not relish the least bit. But if any one does not come out he has to drill with the knapsack weighing 50 lbs unless he is sick and got a release from the Surgeon.

We hear that Sim Reynolds has got the Smallpox in Lane at Homer Morgans. did he have them when he came home or catch them after he got home.

There are no secesh left in these parts now. when a secesh is found out they load him and his family and traps and send them out side of our lines and pitchem off to try the tender mercies of secessia.

The train has just come in and I see it has four large siege guns on for some of the forts. there are six new ones under way and I cant tell how many more will be made. The talk is that there is to be a Div's of cavalry here in a few days. love to all from Edwin

How much wheat did you put in

Franklin, Tenn. May 16, 1863

Dear Friends,

I recieved your letter yesterday bearing dates of the 8th and mailed the 11th. was glad to recieve it. You did not say wheather you had got the money or not. My health is first rate and the rest of the boys are in the same condition. We were all out on picket day before yesterday. The weather is very fine not quite as warm as it was.

We had some new orders read to us yesterday. we will drill after this as the forts are about finished. We have not drilled any to signafy since we came to Tenn but we are to begin now in earnest. Gen. Baird is a West Pointer and is going to have things done up in style. Did I ever tell that Gen. Baird was a Washington County⁶

5. Joseph Hooker, Union general. Commander of the Army of the Potomac, he was defeated at Chancellorsville May 1-4, 1863.

6. Washington County, Pennsylvania, where the Corts had lived before moving to Illinois.

man. he is a nephew of Judge Bairds. his father lived in Washington. Capt. Brice knew him when he was a boy.

Mag wanted to know if Croff and I were all right. we are as good friends as ever and intend to be. he has his faults and so have I but they must be overlooked.

There was a day or two that we were hearing all kinds of rumors from the army of the Potomac. Richmond was taken Lees army was destroyed and the war was about all done but it all turned out that Hooker was driven back across the river and lost 10 or 15,000 men. The raid of Stoneman⁷ was a complete success and shows that we need more cavalry. The fact of the case is that Rosecrance cannot move for the want of that arm of the service.

The enemy on our front and especially on the flanks are mounted and can out travel us. if we move forward they have a chance to make raids in our rear as they did at Murfreesboro and capture our trains and provision. A few more exploits like Stonemans and Carters⁸ will soon convince the rulers at Washington that there is more to be made by rapid movements than by anything else. I think that if they would haul the baggage of the men and let them march farthur in a day it would be better. I would rather march 25 miles without a knapsack than carry one weighing 30 lbs 12 m.

I forgot to tell you that I recieved the stamps all right and am gld to get them. I have nothing more to write this morning as my brains are rather dull. Lyon sends respects to all. Excuse lazyness. I have the spring feaver this morning. My love to all from Charles Edwin Cort.

Franklin, Tenn. May 21, 1863

Dear Friends,

I reced Joes letter yesterday noon and as usual was very glad to get it. The box got here all safe and on last Tuesday and we opened it and distributed it in the evening. The things were all marked and we had no trouble telling each ones things. The box was onley one week in coming. We are all well pleased with it. at least I am and am enjoying it also. The thread came good as I was about out. the spoon looked natural and made me think of times gone by. the vinegar had run of the pickels but I put them in another vessel and put more on them. I have not opened the cans yet except the butter can. it comes good as we have biscuit every

7. George Stoneman, Union general, had command of a recently created cavalry corp. Stoneman's raid, referred to here, was made during the Chancellorsville campaign. Many historlans feel that it had no practical effect and that the cavalry might have been of greater service if it had remained with the main army.

8. Union General S. P. Carter, who made the first successful Union cavalry operation in the West in December, 1862.

day now. we dont see much butter here. There was no charges on the box here.

I got a letter from cousin Ruth this week. they were all in good health. she says that they dont get any letters from Ill and thinks you are lazy about writing.

My health is very good now and the rest of the boys are mostly enjoying very good health. the Reynolds boys are all well. Croff is well and looks better than I ever saw him look before. The boys all look and feel better than they have ever looked or felt since they came into service.

We have been fixing up our Day tent. we made a bunk in it and raised it higher. we have the best bed I have laid on since I came into the service. we made a bedstead of scantlin and nailed old bags across it. The onley difficulty is that we cant sleep on it long enough in the mornings. the tent is sided up with bark. it takes a person to be in the service five or six months to know how to get along.

I will tell you what we have to do in a day generally when we are not on duty. We have to get up at four, then drill by battalion until sunup, then go to quarters, clean up tents and get ready for brekfast. after breakfast clean up company grounds, at 9 Co drill and Target practice for an hour or two. diner at twelve. Either Battalion or Brigade drill at 2½ PM, drill two or three hours next thing super. after supper Dress parade, at eight Tatoo and roll call 8¼ Taps (lights out). The rest of the time we have mostly to our selves. We can go to the creek most every day if we want to wash or bathe.

It takes a large field for our Brigade to drill on. we tore down about one mile of rail fence yesterday to make more room. we have Brigade drill about a mile from camp. Sabbaths in the morning we have Regimental inspection at 9. it lasts about an hour. then dress parade in evening. Bible class at eight. preaching at one prayer meeting in the evening. The artillery practice target shooting every day in the after noon. they do some good shooting.

I must hurry and finish as there is non commishioned officers drill at 7½ oclock this morning and it is most that time now and if I dont get it finished before I cant get it in to days mail.

There is no news of importance about the war here that I know of. We get the news about as soon as you now of what is going on in the army of the Potomac. The enemy in our front are laying still as far as we know at least. they dont appear to have any notion of coming here again. Rosecranse's orders are for no

man to carry more than one suit and one blanket and be ready at all times to move at an hours warning.

Excuse this scribble as I have a sore finger. I will close by Sending my love to all of you and every body else. tell the little boys to write often as I like their letters as well as any bodys els.

Good bye Ed Cort

Franklin, Tenn. May 29, 1863

Dear Friends,

As it is raining this morning I thought I would write you a few lines. It has been awful dusty here for some time but it rained last night and layed it all low. My health is very good. I weigh more than I ever done before, 144½ lbs.

Some of the shoulder straps got a scare on the day before yesterday. we were roused out of bed at 2 in the morning and ordered to take two rations in our haversacks and Seventy rounds of cartridges and be ready to march or fight at any moment. I got up and got my grub put up, filled my canteen, stacked my gun and went to bed. We had breakfast about four but there was nary a reb come.

I went on fatigue to work on one of the forts. Worked on a hill called Ropers Knob. it is 350 ft high and flat on top about two acres. fifty feet from the top is a shelf about twenty feet wide. from that to the top it is almost perpendicular. It is one of the best natural fortifications I ever saw. there is a railroad built to hall the canon and amunition up. there is onley one gun up yet. I was blasting yesterday for a sistren.

The boys are all in their usual health at present. Crawford is in good health and fine spirits. Our time for dress parade has been changed to eight in the morning so that we can have time to drill late in the evening.

The weather here is about as warm now as it usually gets up north but still cool at night. I opened the can said to contain peaches but they were Tomatoes. they were very good. The Herintons boys got a box this week from home. I recieved a Harper the other day. I have not got a letter for several days but expect one to day. I must quit soon as the rain is sifting through the tent a little and wets the paper. We are getting very good news from Grant for a few days back.⁹

Excuse this miserable scratch and I will do better next time when it is not raining.

from Ed

9. Union general Ulysses S. Grant, in command of the Vicksburg campaign. He had successfully crossed the Big Black River after a battle there on May 17, 1863, and on the 19th was closing in around the city for a general assault.

CHAPTER VIII

MIDDLE TENNESSEE CAMPAIGN¹

Triune, June 3, 1863

Dear Friends,

I thought I would write this morning to see the reason I have not got a letter from home for so long. I have looked in vain for over a week. My health is first rate.

We all came to the conclusion last week from the way things were working that we would soon have to march. the weather began to get wet. we were to keep two days rations in our haversacks and canteens filled all the time and had to take them with us every place we went. So on last Monday the sick were all ordered to Nashville and rations to be cooked. on yesterday morning at four we were told to pack up to march. Started at 7 in midst of a thunder shower and as a matter of course it rained most of the day.

We took an eastern direction and marched over one of the crookedest roads I ever saw. saw some of the finest old forests I ever seen. also a redheaded girl with eyes as black as midnight and good looking into the bargain. We took the long road and arrived here at four PM. The day was very warm and there was more

1. Rosecrans launched the offensive against Bragg to keep him busy in Tennessee and prevent his sending reinforcements to Vicksburg. Bragg had strong fortifications at Shelbyville and Tullahoma, and Rosecrans planned to draw him out of his fortified positions. Several feints were made in early June and then the Army of the Cumberland moved out on June 23, 1863. In nine days' fighting, under adverse weather conditions, Bragg was forced to retreat behind the Tennessee River towards Chattanooga on June 30 and Sheridan's division occupied Tullahoma July 3. Chattanooga was an important strategic objective for both armies as it was the center of Confederate East-West railroad communications.

men fell out of the 92nd yesterday than I ever saw before. they were not use to marching and carrying knapsacks.

I threw every thing a way before I started except what I really needed. I have got the suit I have on, one wool blanket, one Gum blanket, two pair socks and that ends the clothing list. I did not carry my tent. some few did but they will not carry them any more. if U S cant furnish mules to carry our tents we wont. The shelter tents are very handy. we set them up last night with our guns, bayonets for stakes. we can do it in five minutes. It rained most of the night but we kept dry.

Triune is 13 miles due east of Franklin and has been threatened by a large body of rebs for several days. All the troops that were at Franklin move yesterday. We had not got 10 miles before the rebels came in but there was 9,000 troops came from Nashville and were onley over the hill. they let the rebs on the bridge then opened on them and gave them fits. I guess the rebs are afraid of the 2nd Brig for when ever we move they leave or will not come till we get a way.

Last week Bragg threw a large force in front of this place and Rosey could not do any thing untill he had force enough here to meet them for if he moved they would pitch in here but now we are here and want them to come. There will be a general forward movement here soon is the general opinion I think this week. I must close as I want to fix up the tent better. Direct to Triune via Nashville. Good bye love to all

Ed Cort

(Diary)

June 3 This morning is wet. had to tare down tents to get our guns to form in line. rained most of the night. no orders yet this morning.

June 4 Cleared off this morning. At 3 P.M. had a grand review before Gen. Granger. There was 23 infantry Regt and 8 batteries.

June 5 Was detailed for Grand Guard. Was posted in a heavy piece of timber, rained most of the day. night very dark and rainy.

June 6 Was relieved at 9 AM. found the camp moved. day fine.

June 7 Sunday. day fine. 200 of the East Tenn. cavalry went out and got into a skermish. the cavalry went to their assistance. We had to be in line most of the afternoon. no Rebs came.

Triune, Tennessee, June 7, 1863

Dear Friends,

I recieved your long looked for letter yesterday morning and was very glad to hear from you. My health is very good in fact never better. I am gaining every day. I weigh 147 lbs now. The rest of the boys are all well. Croff is on guard today.

On last Thursday there was a grand review of all the infantry and artillery here before Gen. Granger. it was in a large field of 300 acres. there was 23 infantry Regts and 8 batteries composing five Brigades and 2 divisions. it was a fine sight. Bob McCook's old Regt, the 9th Ohio,² was there which Gen. McClellan³ said was as well drilled as any European Regt he ever saw when he was in western Va.

While we were out on review we could hear heavy firing in the direction of Franklin. all the cavalry that was here was sent to help them. From the accounts we hear there was a pretty sharp fight but the rebs got badley whiped. it appears as though we were always a little to late or leave to soon to get into a fight.

When I last wrote I thought we would have been a good many miles before this time in the front or else had a fight but we have moved our camp to a better place and got every thing fixed up nicely as though we were going to stop a good while. we have got a fine camp ground onley a little far from water. The country here is leveler here than around Franklin. There are some very good forts and a great many rifle pits here.

The man that owns the land we are camped on has 1800 acres and one of the best dwelling houses I ever saw. the work of it cost \$20,000 without the material. He has taken the oath of allegience but not until he was compelled to or loose his property so that his unionism is rather doubtful. His barn was burned down last night. I dont know how it caught fire.

I was stoped writing at 9 for to go on our regular Sunday morning inspection. it is over now and I will have nothing to do but go on Dress Brigade Parade this evening.

Triune is a small one horse town sixteen miles west of Murfreesboro. It was here that the army of Rosecranse first met the rebs the day before the Stone river fight or rather his right wing. Gen. Schofield I think commanded our forces. they were mostly cavalry. The rebs were in the middle of the field where we had the review, our cavalry in the woods on the north side and our infantry on the East side.

2. A German Turner regiment which had served in W. Virginia in 1861.

3. Geo. B. McClellan, Union general.

To take the language of a negro that saw the fight and was telling me about it he said when the cavalry charged he tot de whole norf was coming and Oh Garry how the rebs run. there are about 1,000 of them burried around here and 300 of our men. The forces that were here before we came were under the command of Brig Gen Brandon⁴ (or some such a name). he is a Potomac man sent west to build up his name. Granger is in command now. Dinner is ready.

Dinner is over and I will try and finish this time but your time is not your own when you are in the army. Sometimes you will lay down thinking to sleep all night but before your Get fairly settled you have to get up and be off while at other times you will be almost certain you will be call on before morning and you will be alowed to lay until after sunup.

I was on picket night before last. it rained all day and most of the night. the post was in a heavy piece of timber and it got so dark that you could not see an inch before you. when I went to relieve the guard at 9 oclock the guard did not hear or see me until I run against him. I did not know that I was so near him. he jumped as though he was shot. It was so dark that the grand rounds could not find the way to visit the pickets.

As near as I can find out all that is keeping us back is waiting for Vicksburg to fall. I have it from good authority that as soon as the Vixburgh affair is fixed up Rosey will move forward. If Grant should fail I dont know what will be done in this department. one thing certain they cant capture Murfreesboro without three or four times our force.

As to C. B. B⁵ courage that remains to be tryed yet. I think from what I have seen it is rather doubtfull although he may stand well when it comes to the pinch. Leaving the clerkship to shoulder the musket does well to talk about. the reason the QM's clerks turned out when we thought we were going to have a fight was because the Col. ordered them to go. As to the Lieutenancy I think that has not come yet nor do I see much prospect yet. he is in very good terms with the Capt and does all his writing for him and so on.

I hope Grandmother and mother will have a pleasant visit to Iowa for they have talked so long about it. Write as often as you can as it does me good to get letters from home.

We have pople tree bark for floor in our tents. there are some trees four feet through and they will peel all in one piece. When

4. John M. Brannan, Union general.

5. Crawford B. Bowles.

we first came into the service we always waited a week or so before we fixed up for fear we would move but now the first thing we do is get things fixed up as soon as we can and then we have the benefit of them and nothing lost if we do move but a little work.

I must close and go to church as I see the chaplain going to the grove. Ed

(Diary)

June 9 Drill about four hours in fournoon, after dinner the enemy drove in the cavalry pickets and skermished all afternoon. stuck guns on color line and kept accoutrements on all afternoon. At dark the pay master paid the past two months pay \$26.

June 10 Rained hard this morning. no drill. sent \$20.00 home. Triune, Tenn. June 14, 1863

Dear Friends,

I recieved yours of the fifth day before yesterday while I was out on picket and of course I was very glad to hear from you.

My health is very good. I had a letter partly written yesterday afternoon but we were called to go out on a reconnoicense. Four regts of cavalry and Stedmans Brig. had went out early in the morning. We were ordered to be ready to march in five minuts with two days rations. we went out three miles and met the other troops coming back. So we had to bout face and come back. got into camp at sundown.

We got orders last night to be ready to march at one in the morning but we did not go but have every thing ready to move in five minuts notice. It is now just sunup. we have had our breakfast some time ago. Day before yesterday there was a heavy body of rebs in our front not over three miles off but yesterday the cavalry were out 12 miles but onley saw two. they were asleep and were taken prisoner.

I had scarsely got my last letter to you mailed last Sabbath before we were ordered into line double quick the enemy having attacked our pickets. the cavalry went out and had a slight skermish when the rebs fell back. they also made another on Tuesday afternoon but fell back after driving the pickets in.

On Thursday about ten A.M. they made another atack⁶ this time they had three guns with them. the pickets were strengthened and they fired on them with their battery. we were all in line and the minute they opened with their big guns a section of Millars Chicago battery and one of the 18th Ohio took position and began firing. the

6. Action at Triune, June 11, 1863.

Ohio was just to the right of our Regt. as soon as the batteries opened on them the rebs returned the fire and the shells flew over us and to our right at almost every discharge. the rebel battery was in sight about a mile off.

there was a squad of cavalry made a dash across a field to cut off a portion of our pickets when Granger pointed one of the guns of the Chicago battery and emptied three saddles when they turned back after about half an hours brisk firing the Rebs thought it was too hot for them and withdrew. The 18 is composed of rifled Rodmand guns and throw three inch shell. they went through trees over two feet in thickness. The rebs threw round shell.

Our Regt was in plain sight and after a few rounds they got our range so near that we were ordered to lay down so that they could pass over us. Our cavalry followed them about three miles and took five prisoners. there was two of our cavalry men killed one a Lieut and nine wounded. the Rebs had twenty or thirty killed and quite a number wounded.

I believe that the main Rebel army are falling back and are making these feints to fool us and attract our attention. they think that Rosey has sent most of his men to help Grant and are feeling along our lines to ascertain. We have a heavy cavalry force here now and also considerable infantry and considerable artillery.

It is reported that there was an engagement near Murfreesboro yesterday. I think we will move forward toward Shelbyville this week or in some other direction. all we are waiting for I think is news from Grants army. The rest of the boys are in good health. Croff is going on picket today.

I will draw to a close. excuse haste. If you do not get my letters regular dont be uneasy as I dont know what moment we will be on the march and it may be so that I will not get a chance to write.

Love to all Ed

Triune, Tenn. June 18, 1863

Dear Friends,

I recieved a letter yesterday and thought I would write a few lines this morning. I am enjoying very good health. the rest of the boys with the exception of Croff are well. He is ailing a little for a few days but not very bad. he is better this morning.

We had a very heavy shower last night. The weather is very warm now, warm as I ever seen it in Ill. I stand the heat first rate. we drill most in the morning's and evenings. Yesterday the 92nd was out on chopping in the forenoon the first fatigue duty that we

have done since we came to this camp. We are felling a track through the timber in our front and left to prevent a cavalry dash in that direction. We chopped some of as fine timber as I ever saw grow any where.

Every thing is going on here in the same old style. the rebs have not bothered us any since I last wrote. The report was last night that they were advanceing again and that Bragg had recieved large reinforcements at Shelbyvill which is about thirty miles from this place.

Since I began to write I seen a squad of cavalry bringing three Butternuts in as prisoners so that there must be some of them arround again. I hope they will come soon. if they dont it is not likely that we will get a chance at them as we have been placed on the reserve Corp, 1st Brigade 1st Division I believe and still under Granger. Baird has command of the Division. We will likely be kept to guard the communications for a while at least.

I am not in a good writing humor this morning. I feel a little lazy onley just a little *bit*. I would like very much if you all would send me your pictures as I would like to see them now. they would do me more good than if I had brot them with me. I was going to get mine taken but I seen some of the pictures that was taken here and they were very poor. Then you have mine and I just look as I always did only prehaps a little blacker than ever.

I see by the papers that the Rebs are making another Raid into Penn..⁷ I supose it is for the purpose of getting Hooker to divide his forces so that they can whip one part at a time. I hope he wont do it. let them rais enough troops to protect themselves from invasions of that kind.

If Ohio, Penn and N. Y. would rais enough troops to threaten an invasion of Va on the north side, it would be a great healp and the Rebs would have to divide their army of the Potomac a little. likewise Ill has stood the blunt of the war in the south west and has far exceeded her share. If the North West had not flew to arems she would have been invaded long ago but she has alwas responded nobley to the calls for men and always sent good soldiers in the field.

The reputation of the Ill troops is superior to that of any other in these parts although they are no better disciplined than others but the men and officers appears to be on better footing with each other than most other troops and when it comes to fight they can fight with or without officers.

7. Gettysburg campaign.

You must never show any of my letters to any person. they are only for yourselves to read. I must close as my pond has dried up. Grandmother had better not go to Ohio as the rebs are going to invade that state.

I heard that Mr. Minier and Perley Hurd had a fight and that Father Minier got used up badley. give me the paticulars about it and what it was about and where Clay was about that time of day. He owes me a letter for some time. Use your own pleasure about sending a watch. I need one every time I am on duty but the rebs might get me and it both.

love to all
Good bye, Ed

In camp 15 miles south of Murfreesboro
and 10 from Shelbyville
Sabbath morning, June 28, 1863

Dear Friends,

I thought I would write you a few lines this morning before we started on the march and try and send it back by the first chance. We can neither send or get mail now and if you do not get any letters from me dont be uneasy. My health is very good and the rest of the boys stand this march better than any one we have ever marched although the weather has been very bad ever since we started.

We left Triune on the 23rd got into line at 8 AM and did not get outside of the pickets until after 2 PM although there was troops moving out two roads all the time. We camped at a place called Salem a little after dark. It began to rain early next morning and rained hard all day.

started toward Shelbyvill at 2 PM. we were within five miles of Murfreesboro marched on a mud road with the mud from 1 to 6 in. deep. heavy fireing ahead all day. an hour before dark halted until 8 then moved on again marching over the worst roads I ever saw and wading two creeks still raining hard. camped at 12 and slept until 3 got in line and stood until sun up cooked breakfast stood around all day in the rain. Toward evening move in to a field and made beds. sent our knapsacks back to Murfreesboro kept nothing but my gum blanket so we are in light marching order. lay in same place next day. Yesterday the 27th fill our haversacks with three days rations and got ready to start. the cavalry got out by noon then we started.

our Regt was the first infantry on this pike. Went into camp here about sundown yesterday cooked our supers on the same ground the rebs left about 3 PM. McCooks Corp is on our left and he got in the rear of Shelbyville and our cavalry dashed in and took 500 prisoners and three pieces of artillery.⁸ the rest had left. The prisoners are here now. they are the best looking set of rebs I have seen yet. they are mostly of the 51st Alabama, one Col and one Major and sevurllul Cpts.

We cut cedar boughs and lay on them last night. they makẽ a splendid bed. With two guns and two gum blankets we can make a first rate shelter tent that will turn rain better than any tent. Since I began to write I hear that there is an order that no mail to go or in for seven days or prehaps longer so I will quit for the present.

June 28 afternoon. We have marched back 8 miles with the prisoners. I guess we are going back toward Shelbyville again this afternoon. It is now 2 PM and there is a chance. In hast. Love to all Ed

(Diary)

June 29 Lay in camp until 4 PM. got orders to march. it rained very hard. marched 12 miles to within 5 miles of Shelbyville.

June 30 Started at about 7 AM. marched to within 1½ miles of Shelbyville and camped in a grove. there are some fortyfications around the town and from the camp there must have been a good many troops here.

July 1, 1863 Went around to see the battle field. at noon moved our camp to the south East side of town near Duck River. Shelby is the best union town in the state I have seen yet. good watter and fine camp ground.

July 2 Stayed in camp for one day with out rain or moving.

July 3 Got orders to march. at 6½ AM started. after we got about half a mile it began to rain and rained the hardest I have ever seen it rain since I came into the service. In a few minutes the ground was all covered with water and every little stream full. we waded several over knee deep and walked in water most all the time. Got to Wartrace about 5 PM, a small place and camped West of town.

July 4 Was not on any duty to day. nothing of any consequence happened. it was not much of a fourth.

July 6 Got orders to march. Started at 8 AM. marched most of the time on the railroad. Blackberries were very plenty all along the road. Roads were very bad and we had to wait on the teams.

8. Occupation of Shelbyville, June 27.

Camped in a clover field early in the evening about 40 Rods from the river. We are about 5 miles from Wartrace. Went on picket.

July 7 Was relieved at 8 AM. There was a heavy detail to work on the Bridge. There was a train of 500 wagons passed. The 74th Ill was with them as a guard. Saw James Purvis of the 22nd. rained as usual today.

July 9 Worked on the Bridge today.

July 10 Started to go back to Wartrace at 9 AM. Recieved an order for to be mounted and be attached to Wilders Brig. of mounted infantry.

July 15 Four Co. went to report to the Brigade. the horses will be here tomorrow some time.

Wartrace, Tenn. July 18, 1863

Dear Friends,

I reced yours of the 9th and was very sorry to hear of the accident which hapened to Maggie. I can fully sympathise with her as I know something about broken bones. She wants to be very careful for a while at first until the bone gets well knit togather then it will soon get well. I hope it will be the horse that will get the broken bone next time that he falls with any body on his back. The letter was very well written with the left hand. I could read it very easy. I hope I will get plenty of letters now. My health is first rate now. the rest of the boys are enjoying their usual health. I recieved a letter from cousin Ruth a few days ago stating that Grandmother and Jennie had arrived safe and sound. they were all very well at the time.

We have not got all of our horses yet. There was only 250 to be got at Nashville and Murfreesboro. they had been sent off to hunt up Morgan. Four Cos went on last Tuesday to report to Gen Wilder for to guard a bridge. He took the rest of his Brigade out on a scout to hunt up some horses I guess. We will get the rest of the horses some time next week. Col. Sheets⁹ is away now after them.

We have nothing to do now. we have not stood picket any since we came back here. There are a good many sick in the other Regts. I dont think this is a very health place and wish we would get our horses soon and get out of it.

The paymaster was here yesterday and paid us for two months. \$26.00 I have sent \$15.00 home. You can get it the same as the other at Parkers. I kept more this time as we will have a better chance to do marketing when we get the horses. We dont have as good fare

9. Col. Benj. F. Sheets, 92nd Illinois Vol.

as we use to have. Hard tack, Sow belly and coffe are the principle diet and the onley variety: excepting black berries as a desert and they will run out some of these days.

Old Morgan appears to be stirring things up a good deal in Indiana and there abouts. he ought to have the 92nd after him to make him run. We followed him enough to hate him and know something about his tricks. Many a cold night have I stood picket watching for him in Ky but he never came when we wanted him.

Our armies have been very successful of late. Vicksburg and Port Hudson have fallen.¹⁰ Lee has been repulsed in Penn¹¹ and Bragg is nowhere before Rosecrans and the army of the Cumberland. Grant can pay his respects to Johnson. Banks can go in any direction he likes. Meade¹² appears to have sufficient troops to attend to Lee if he has any Military ability to speak of and Rosey will soon be in full sail after Bragg again.

I think that the prospects are indeed very favorable for us at the present time and if the campaign is as successful in the latter part of the season (the most favorable part) the rebs will be in pretty close quarters. I think that Morgan is in a rather tight place now¹³ although he is equal to almost any emergance of that kind but I dont think he is much of a fighter.

The Capt got a box from Home yesterday. it came all right. also one for the Co. that had some coffee boilers that were ordered for the Co in it.

About the watch now is as good a time and place to send as any. I cant tell how long we will stop in one place but dont think we will move far for a couple of weeks at least. You can either send it by mail or express. if you send by mail get a small paper box and stuff it around with a silk handkerchief and cotton as I want one. If you send it by express send a pocket knife along as I lost mine that I got at Rockford a few days ago, also a pair of suspenders. Direct it as follows: Co H 92nd Reg, III Vol. Via Nashville to follow the Regt.

If you are busy harvesting when you get this dont mind it. I wish I was there to help you for a couple of weeks but we must attend to our country first. You will have pretty hard work I expect but do the best you can. Mother will have a hard time as Mag is a cripple.

Love to all from Ed

10. Vicksburg fell July 4, Port Hudson surrendered to Union Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks July 9, 1863.

11. Battle of Gettysburg.

12. Gen. George G. Meade, who succeeded Hooker as commander of the Army of the Potomac June 28, 1863.

13. Reference to Morgan's Ohio raid, which resulted in his capture on July 26.

In camp near Roseville July 23, 1863

7 miles north Tullahoma

Dear Friends,

Recieved yours of the 16th yesterday and was very glad to know that you were all enjoying your usual state of health and that Maggie's arm was doing as well as could be expected. My health is very good. I was unwell day before yesterday but am all right again.

We left Wartrace on last Sabbath morning and came here. we are camped about one mile and a half from where we were before when we built the bridge. Our Co. is rather small now as the Capt and 18 men are at Nashville after more horses again. they went day before yesterday and will be back today I think. they did not get enough the last time they were there and Lieut Bailey and 14 men went out on a scout yesterday. all horses that were fit in the Regt went and also (2) two other Regts out of this Brig (Wilders). They went after horses.

I was to go to Nashville but I was sick the morning they started and I had no horse to go on the scout. There was not enough horses for the Co. and we drew by lottery. I got a blank and was glad of it as the horses were rather poor ones. All the men that were on detached service are back to the Co again. we have over 70 men now the largest co. in the Regt. Lieut Bailey is back also.

I went about 80 rods from camp and got about one gallon of as nice blackberries as you ever saw and was not gone over one half an hour. We don't have to get up now until sunup since we came here. It goes somewhat like the thing and gives a fellow a chance to sleep. The weather here has not got as warm as I expected from the first start. The heat is regular and I don't think any warmer than I have seen it up in Ill. some times but the warmest month is to come yet although the darkies say it is as warm now as it gets.

I supose you are in the midst of your harvest now. don't let writing to me interfere any with your work for I do not expect to get letters as regular as I did while you were not so busy. I hope you will get along as well with the harvest as you did with the seed-ing.

I do not know what Brigade this is in yet but think it in McCooks Divi. Direct simply to the Regt. (Atkins is Back with us)

Love to all from C. E. Cort

In Camp near Decherd, Tenn.

July 28, 1863

Dear Friends,

On opening my portfolio this evening I found that I had not mailed the last letter that I had written to send to you. I will write a few more lines and enclose with it. The capt got back from Nashville with the horses on Saturday and all the co got a horse. The whole Regt is well mounted now.

On Friday I went out in the country and got a good dinner the first one I have eat in a house since I came into Tenn. On last Sabbath morning we got orders to march for this place. we started at noon and march 13 miles and camped near Elk river. yesterday we marched 10 miles or rather rode. some of the men had no saddles. we are to get some more saddles today. It goes better than walking. when you get a little behind you can easily catch up.

The men that were on the scout got back about half an hour ago. they captured 1200 horses and mules. six of the 92nd got taken prisoners none out of our Co. they were paroled.¹⁴ not a man hurt. it was a very successful raid.

We are to move 10 miles tomorrow morning. we are not very far from the Tenn and Alabama line. The horse that I drew is a pretty good one. he is a little larger than I wanted. he is just like the bay horse that Cyrus Walker used to have. he rides easy and is shure footed.

We are in Thomas's Corps (14) and Reynolds Divis (4th) Wilders Brigade (1st). I must close as it is supper time and after supper I must graze my horse. We expect to stop next place some time until we get fully equiped. We are near the mountains and our next camp will be among them. Direct as before to the 92nd, Co H via Nashville.

Good bye. Love to all

Ed

Decherd, Tenn. August 3, 1863

Dear Friends,

I recieved yours bearing the date of the 24th on last Friday and on Saturday I got a package by mail containing a watch, knife, suspenders and a hand kerchief all of which came through safe and sound. I thank you very much for sending them. they all answer to the **Tea**. When I last wrote we expected to move to the mountains but we did not. we move camp about 80 rods to a better place. we have a very nice camping ground.

14. System under which a prisoner of war was released with the understanding that he would not bear arms until exchanged with officers or men of equal rank in the Confederate army.

We are all equiped with horses, bridles and saddles. most of the saddles are citezens saddles. there was not enough of cavalry saddles to be got. We have got first rate horses. I think all we are waiting for now to move are the rest of our spencer rifles. Then we will go down into Alabam or Miss.

Old Rosey has been at Nashville for some time but he has come back. his head quarters are at Winchester 2 miles from here West of us. we are about (15) miles fifteen from the Ala line. The mountains that divide East and west Tenn are in plain sight of here. It is a right pretty country around here. the soil is mostly red clay wich is not a very good sign for richness.

There has been very little grain planted here. Corn grows very tall and rank but does not ear well. rosten ears are getting ripe in some few fields but most of the corn is late. There is not as much fruit here as there was a few miles farther north. The farmers pay very little attention to fruit raising. Ky and Tenn are at least 50 years behind the north in point of civilization and improvements. this war will advance the southern states a great deal. they use a good many wooden plows here some yet. I have seen but one reaper here yet. that was a McCormick.

We have 78 men in the company rank and file. there are still some few on detached service. We have got three niggars to cook for the Co now. My health is good all the rest of the boys are in their usual health. Mr Lyon has got a Felon on his finger or something of that kind it is getting some better now. I must close as the mail leaves camp at 8 this morning and it onley wants 15 minutes of that time now. love to all

Good bye from Ed

Direct to Wilders' Mounted Infantry 14 Army Corps.

Decherd, Tenn. August 9, 1863
Sabbath morning

Dear Friends,

I thought I could employ my time here as well this morning in writing as any other ways. I recd yours of the 31st containing one from Cyrus Cort day before yesterday. Of course was very glad to hear from you as all soldiers are to hear from home. I think that Maggies arm is getting along fine and also think that you are getting along fine with harvesting. I am begining to think that I was not of much account and you can get along as well without me. I guess I had better enlist in the Vetran army Corps and get the \$400 bounty.

My health is very good at present. The rest of the boys are in usual conditon. Croff is acting Ordinance Sergt for the Regt now. I think he must be sick to write about you being angry at him for his promotion over me. he must feel that he was not worthy of being jumped over me or he would not talk so. I am shure I have never showed that I cared a straw about it. If I was going to show angur the Capt is the one as he put him there for the purpose of having him to wait on him. he knows that I never would do for to wait on any shoulder strap as I never was brot up to it. I always have and I will always do my duty and he (the Capt) knows that well. The Capt. appears to have an especial spite against Lyon, Walters and myself but we don't care for him.

As to your letters I never carry a letter over 48 hours until I burn them and they are always strictly private as I want mine to be so. The Capt gets a good deal of news through his wife. Never mind what DRB says.

We are still here as you will see by the heading of my letter. We got orders day before yesterday to be ready to march at any time. There is no army news from this department that I know of. Col. Wilder¹⁵ has been home on a leave of absence for a week or so (in Ind.). Morgan destroyed all his property in his last raid. Burned his dwelling house and a fine mill.

Yesterday I mailed you a roll of paper containing my travels and Dairy. my book had begun to rub out and I thought that I would draw it off and send it home. It was written in a hurry and prehaps has a good many mistakes in it as I did not read it over after I wrote it. If you can read it do so and then put it in a safe place to keep it for me as I may want to see it some time. as I don't want it lost I will keep the book until I hear wheather you get it or not. I do most of my writing setting down with my Portfolio on my knees. It is not a very good way to write but does for a soldier. I have not recd a scratch from J. McConaughy since I last wrote but will write to him this week if I can get time. I dont think of any thing of importance at present and will close for the mail leaves soon and must water my horse. he is a good riding horse.

Love to all Ed

You will have to excuse the dullness of my letters while we are in camp. there is a good deal of monotony and not much change. If you cant read this there is nothing lost.

15. John Thomas Wilder.

(Diary)

August 11, 1863 Got a pass to go to Winchester. started at 9 AM got there at 11. it is right pretty little place. Roseys headquarters is there. saw Gen McCook and Davis. went to the 74th and 75 Ills.

August 12 Day very warm. Drilled by Co. on horses.

August 14 Was detailed to go with the forage train. got 22 bushels of corn in the morning. in afternoon went out 5 miles. it rained hard and all got wet. got plenty of Peaches. rained most of the night.

CHAPTER IX

THE BALL IS ABOUT TO OPEN¹

Tenn. Valley, foot of Waldens Ridge
Sept. 7, 1863

Dear Friends,

I once more get a chance to write. I have recd but one letter since we left Decherd and have written but one. We are on the move most of the time and my portfolio is back over the mountains and I can not get paper all the time to write on and then the mail is very irregular.

I have never given you an account of our march from Decherd. We left Decherd the 16th² at noon. we had moved about one mile

1. Bragg's withdrawal to eastern Tennessee after the Tullahoma campaign made Chattanooga the next objective of the Army of the Cumberland and Rosecrans began his advance on August 16, 1863. Part of the army made a feint against Chattanooga by way of Sequatchie Valley while the main force crossed the Tennessee River to the southwest. When Bragg discovered what was happening, he evacuated Chattanooga on September 8, consolidating his strength a few miles south. The Union army was widely separated because of the terrain and if Bragg had fallen upon the separate groups before they had a chance to consolidate, he might have won a stunning victory. The main battle was fought around Chickamauga, Georgia, September 19 and 20.

As part of Thomas' 14th Corps, the 92nd Ill. Vol. found themselves in the thick of the fighting at Chickamauga, their first big battle. As Mounted Infantry they were moved around a good deal at first, being used as reserve troops. They were finally dismounted, formed as infantry and ordered to the front lines. A heavy assault by Confederate troops broke the ranks of the 6th Kentucky (Union) forces just ahead of the 92nd and in the resulting confusion they were forced back. After re-forming, they went in again to the right of Negley and on Wilder's left. The regiment remained in the battle all night and until the afternoon of the next day when they were ordered out to guard an ammunition train to Chattanooga.

On the 20th, when Rosecrans, McCook and Crittenden were unable to rally their forces, they retreated to Chattanooga. Thomas remained on the field, held the left flank against overwhelming odds, earning his title "Rock of Chickamauga" and prevented the Union defeat from becoming a complete disaster. The Union army was forced back to Chattanooga, besieged there by Bragg and threatened with starvation. Grant arrived on October 23 and soon relieved the siege.

2. August 16, 1863.

when it began to rain and we had one of the hardest thunderstorms I think I ever saw. fairly poured down. The thunder and lightning was awful. one flash struck (during a short halt) a few rods from our Co and knocked about a dozen horses down and dismounted some. my horse came to his knees. we all felt the shock for some time.

It stopped raining about 2 PM and we reached the foot of the first range of the Cumberland Mts and began the ascent. the pioneers³ had made the road pretty good. we got to the top about 4½ PM and marched four miles and camped at University Place where there are several fine springs. there was one brig. of Inf in camp there.

After dark three of each Co went back to help the teams. I was one. it was a rough ride. the road was full of wagons and we had to take the side. it was very dark but we got to our team safe about half way down and stopped for the night. It was a splendid sight for one that was used to prairies to see the almost precipitous mountains and then away down below lay the valley.

We got the teams up to the Regt about 10 AM without any trouble. we started forward in an hour and went very slow all day as the road was rather poor for the wagons. We camped near a place called Tracy City. there is a railroad on top of the Mts running to it.

18th We marched faster. are still on the mts. I had a good supper of beans, corn and potatoes. We started early on the 19th and at 8 AM began to descend the mountains. When the Col. came and ordered Co's D, E & H forward we went down as fast as we could. Our scouts had captured 13 Rebs and a Capt. We went five miles up the Valley to Dunlap. the valley is about 3 miles wide and is called Sequachee.⁴ the Sequachee River runs through it.

Next morning the 20th started with no trains. left all that were not well behind. took 100 rounds of ammunition five days rations on our horses and two pack mules to each Co with rations. Crittendens Corp is in the valley. began to ascend Waldens Ridge at 8 AM and dismounted, leading horses. it was the steepest mountain of the two. Reached the foot of the Mts about 5 PM. our advance took a Picket Post of 10 men and four wagons. Camped in a clover field. had strong Pickets out. are 15 miles from Chattanooga.

3. The Pioneer Corps, which served in the Army of the Cumberland, comparable to the combat engineers of World War II.

4. Sequatchie Valley, Tennessee.

Next morning the 21st started for the river⁵ at Harrison 7 miles away. found the rebs strongly posted. fired a few shots at them with the big guns. one of Co D boys got shot through the arm. their sharpshooters are pretty good. Ever since then we have been scouting and runing around and having a good time generaly. We have all the peaches and sweet potatoes we want. I wish you had some of them.

Last week several of us went on the Mt to see a wonderful lake that is there. We went up as far as we could on our horses then footed it the rest of the way. It was hard climbing but paid well. It is situated about ½ mile back and sorounded by a thicket and cant be seen until you are on the edge of it. then it takes you by surprise. down about 150 ft lays the lake. there is onley one place to get to it. it contains about 5 acres and the watter is the clearest I ever saw. all around except in one place the sides are streight up and down. there is no bottom to it. it cannot be found at 350 ft anyhow. we all went in a swimming in it. You can't dive out of sight in it it is so clear.

on last Thursday our Co went on picket at the river at Aragoes landing. it is 8 miles from any force. Lt Dawson and 10 of us went to Penneys ford. the Co that we relieved were afraid to show them selves as the rebs sharp shooters fired at them. we fired a few shots and then began to talk to each other and agreed with the post opposite not to shoot at each other but some below us kept cracking away at us.

Collins Willie⁶ and I striped off and went in a swimming. when they saw we were not afraid of them they quit shooting and we were soon on good terms and talking across the river to each other. Willie swam to the middle to an old treetop and met one of them and had a good talk. the river is 650 yds wide. they belonged to the 35 Tenn. next morning they made the same agreement at Aragoes and four of our boys swam across the river and stayed a couple of hours. the rebel Col sent them back in a canoe.

we were to be relieved the next day but never got relieved until yesterday at noon when we found that our Regt had went to Bridgeport to establish a Currier line. We had a good time on picket. had all we wanted to eat in almost every line. we cooked right in plain sight of the rebs. we made them think we had a strong force when our Co was all within 7 miles. they thought we were going to cross

5. Tennessee River.

6. Collins Willey, Co. H, 92nd Ill. Vol.

when we were afraid they would. they doubled their pickets and sent a Regt to camp near the ford.

we had no boats at the ford so we did not go over but you would have laughed to have seen two or three naked men perched on the old tree top in the middle of the river reb and union both. I could not swim to the tree. my paper is done about and I will stop. The team is with the regt now and when I get to it I will carry my portfolio with me after this. Dont be uneasy if you dont get letters as sometimes I cant get paper for a while.

Ed

(Diary)

September 5th, 1863 Day fine. are not relieved yet. the rebs had not much to say today. the 3rd Arkansas and the 6th Gorgia are picketing the other side. no fireing. had orders to be very watchful at night.

6th Was relieved today at 11 AM. Got to Hazens⁷ HdQuarters about sundown. camped near the 98th. Regt gone to Gen. Shermans.⁸

7th Moved camp at noon near Gen. Hazens Hd Quarters. Stopped in camp today and done nothing.

9th Most of the Co was detailed as curriers. I and 10 others went as escorts for Gen Hazen. We went 22 miles east to Mintys⁹ Cavalry. got back after dark. Was detailed for picket as Sergt. stood at the Harrison corner.

10th Was relieved when we all started, our co as rear guard post, to drive cattle. Went to Chattanooga but could not cross so we went back to Chicamagua river and camped by the river.

11th Started early and forded the Tenn river at sunup and fed and got breakfast. teams got across safe. Moved slow until we came to Graysville¹⁰ found the 6th Ky inft there to act as rear Guard. there was a wine press. lots of the soldiers of the 6th got drunk and fought. got to Ringold.¹¹ about 3 PM got orders to report to Regt. started for Lafaette went 4 mi got supper and started forward after dark. Earle¹² and I were Advance, got close to the rebs, turned back and went to the old road. camped for the night about 12 oclock. rode 12 m after dark.

12th Moved off about 6 AM. could not hear anything of Regt until 10 got up about 10½. Regt was just starting for Lafaette, rode

7. Union general, Wm. B. Hazen.

8. Union general, Wm. Tecumseh Sherman.

9. Col. Robert Minty, 4th Mich. Cavalry.

10. Graysville, Georgia.

11. Ringgold, Georgia.

12. W. B. Earl, Co. H, 92nd Ill. Vol.

till noon turned back to within 2 miles of Chat. at foot of Lookout Mt. started up at sunset. rode over rough roads until 2½ at night. rode over 20 miles after night after riding all day. got to Reynolds Div.

Sept. 13th, 1863 Got up very late and did not move until afternoon when we went down off the mountain and camped.

14th Moved at 7 for to open communications with Crittendens¹³ force. went about 10 miles and came to Minty's force, fed and then went back to our Division and camped.

16th Regt train came up last night and all our Co. came up. Still in camp. done nothing but got forage.

17th Ordered to be ready to move at 8 AM. The rest of the Brig moved. ours did not Move until after noon. there was sharp skirmishing. Co E had one man killed one wounded and gobbled. Scouted arround till dark then came back to old camp.

18th Toward evening went 2 miles to trains and drew rations. (The first part of the following letter is missing but the remainder covers movement from September 12 to 18.)

And had got two men of Co. F. wounded. We fell in and went on at noon. we stopped to feed and the rest of the boys came up with us. The 92nd got order to go back. we past several Divisions of Crittendens Corp. we got back to the foot of Lookout Mts. within one mile of Chat. and rested an hour. about sundown we started up (it is the highest Mts I have seen) we got on top about dark and marched on top over an awful road for 22 miles leaving Co's K & C on the road as curriers. it was very dark and we went over rocks and trees up hill and down. Some went to sleep on their horses as we had had no rest to speak of three days and nights.

We came up to our own division (Reynolds) about 2 got corn for our horses and lay down and slept till long after sunup. in the afternoon we moved down off the Mountain. Braggs whole force is laying within 10 miles of us and we are pretty near arround them. we camped at the foot of the Mt. Next morning, the 14th, our Regt was sent to open communication with Crittendens as Rosey had not heard from him for 12 hours. we went to Gordons Mills and came to Mintys cavalry and our scouts seen Crittenden. we turned in a southwest direction and went through fields and woods and at dark got back to Thomas Corps again.

We lay in camp two days without doing much. our Regt train

13. Thos. L. Crittenden, Union general commanding the 21st Corps.

came up and also some of the boys that were back so that our Co is pretty good size again. Yesterday morning the rest of the Brig went some place and most of the troops moved in some direction and there was sharp firing.¹⁴ we began to think the ball was about to open. Co E was sent out at 11. about 2 PM we started to the front on the run and you never saw such dust. We went about two miles and halted and formed in line and sent out scouts. Turchins Brg was having a little brush.

Co E got in a tight place. there was about 20 men forming. an advance guard came up to them. they halted but were afraid to fire on them as they had on our uniform. they sent a flag of truce to see wich. they kept them then fired and had a hard fight for an hour. the rebs came toward them four deep but Co E had spencers¹⁵ and from behind the trees they kept up such a hot fire that they could not advance. they finealy out flanked them when they fell back. There was one killed and one wounded and one taken prisoner out of Co E.

We came back to camp at dark. It got quite cool last night and is still cool today. There is a little picket firing today but has been no fighting. it is now about 2 PM. Our horses have been saddled all day and we are ready to move at any time. Rosey is near here. Part of Grants army is here the 16 Army Corps. There are a great many troops here now. Our Regt will have to guard the trains I think from the way things work at present.

Ed

(Diary)

Sept. 19, 1863 Moved from camp just at sunup and went to Gordons Springs. heavy fireing and a battle going on on the left. We were moved arround a good deal. finealy were dismounted and formed in regular infantry style and went in front and to the right of the battery. A very heavy body of the rebs came on us very suddenly and the 6th Ky¹⁶ run through us and broke our ranks. then we went over a fence and fell back. the rebs got on our left flank. we began firing and falling back. the battery opened there but could not check them. finally we got orders to go to horses. We fell back and moved off to the right and formed but were not attacked. I stood picket part of the night. it was very cool.

14. September 17th.

15. The Spencer was the first successful repeating rifle. Of it the Confederates said that a Yankee could load it on Sunday and fire it all week.

16. 6th Kentucky, a Union regiment.

On the Tenn. River 5 miles
above Chattanooga, Sept. 22

Dear Friends,

I seat myself to let you know that we have been in a battle and have come out without a scratch. On the morning of the 19th we left camp just at sunup and moved east about 10 miles. There was heavy firing on our left. we formed as a reserve for Wilder. pretty soon we were moved farther to the left. we tore down the fences. we were again moved to the rear of Hazen's Brig. we stood there for an hour then we moved back about 80 rods and tied our horses then formed as regular infantry and moved to support a battery of two guns and four Howitzers.

Gen Reynolds then ordered us forward to support the front line. we got to the road and the rebels got on our right flank and we were ordered to fall back. we were on the double quick and had to cross a very high fence. just then the regiment in our front broke through us and threw us in some confusion. the ones that had got the farthest back began firing which left some of us between two fires. we got on top of the hill and the battery opened on them¹⁷ and mowed them down but never checked them in the least. They were firing on us both in front and on our right and the men began to fall fast and we were ordered to fall back more. Finally we were ordered to our horses as the stragglers were taking them.

I did not hear the order to go for horses. I found that most all were gone and I took a last crack into a line where they¹⁷ were about 10 deep and started back. I had just got my gun loaded when I heard some one say for God's sake don't leave me. I looked and it was Jack Hendricks. One of our boys had a hold of him. I took a hold of him and we took him back as fast as we could and got to the hospital about 50 rods off. I then got three or four of our boys and started to find the rest. we came to where they were forming some men and we fell in with them. They were from all regiments. we then were told to go and hunt our regiment as the rebels were coming. I ran back toward where they were fighting in hopes I would get another shot but I found a man leading my horse. I took him and we were ordered to go over the hill and form again. we got in line and waited awhile. the firing had mostly ceased. Sergeant Preston was mortally wounded and has died since. Hendricks in side pretty bad, William Havlin in left arm, Cyrus Eyster in mouth are the wounded in our Co. some others were scratched a little.

17. The Confederate line.

Wilder says he dont see how we got off as we did considering the position we were in and such a heavy force of rebs. When we were taking Hendricks off the balls fairly rained arround us. there was one man out of another Regt killed dead within ten ft of me and an otherer one shot in the hip. Our Regt moved toward the right and we met Negleys division moving up. we then formed in on there right and on Wilders left, dismounted and moved forward in single rank the usual formation of Att. infantry. It was about dark then and the firing on our left began again and they went in pretty hard for about an hour and drove them back to old lines. we built rail piles in front of us and had orders to hold them as Roseys Hdquarters was¹⁸

(Diary)

20th Moved off to the right and sent forward skermishers. There was very hard fighting on our left and we had to fall back to prevent them flanking us. We were ordered to guard a train to Chatt. about 2 PM. camped 4 miles from Chattanooga.

21st Moved back across the Tenn River on a pontoon and went 5 miles up the river to the ford and camped.

22nd Stayed in camp all day. The fight was still going on south of us.

Harison's Landing, Tenn.
September 28th, 1863

Dear Friends,

I will scratch you a few lines this Monday morning letting you know that I am well and the rest of the boys are in their usual health.

We came up to this place on the 23rd (Our Regt) and have been here since. two Co stand picket on the river. The Rebs are on the other side again. the word this morning is that they have left. Our Co was on last Friday at Nelsons ferry 3 miles below here. Yesterday 8 of us went up on the mountains to see about some hard bread that was left there. we found 16 boxes. it was midnight before we got back. We are short of rations now. we have been expecting a supply train for several days but it has not come yet.

You will have the account of the battle before this time. You know what is going on out side of our Regt better than we do. I have not seen 3 papers since we left Decherd so you will see that I am rather behind. we have not had any mail for several days. I guess I have missed some letters as I did not hear whether you

18. Remainder of letter missing. Rosecran's headquarters were at the Widow Glenn's so would probably be less than a mile from their line.

reced that roll containing my travels or not. I would like to know. I have not heard from Ohio for a long time. I have written three letters and have had no answer.

The weather has got pretty cool at nights here now and there has been quite a number of frosts. there has been no rain for a long time and it is very dusty. Sometimes when we are riding fast we can hardly see our horses heads for dust.

I have not slept in a tent or under any kind of a roof since we left Decherd and I have never had better health. And for about two weeks did not average over four hours sleep a night. I got so use to it that I can hardly put in a full night now.

I have got to be quite a hand for potatoes now especially sweet ones. They are \$1.00 per bus but when we come across a reb patch we get them some what cheaper. Some of the rebs will begin to think the Mud sills can dig taters. I saw about 100 bus of sweet ones dug in a very short time without a hoe down in Gorgia. we wanted to buy them but he would not sell so we thought we would get enough for supper. Good bye from

Ed

Will and Arth write let me know who Joe took to the excursion. I am out of stamps and would like some.

(Diary)

Oct. 2nd, 1863 Cleared off last night. Was detailed for picket. stood on the Chattanoga road. had no rations. have not drew any Hard Bread for some time.

3rd Rumors that Forrest has crossed the river and is trying to get in our rear. Was relieved before dark.

On picket at Dallage's Landing
Oct. 10, 1863

Dear Friends,

It is now exactly 10 o'clock on Saturday evening and I have just put on a relief and having a good place I thought I would write. I am seated in a log store room about 14 ft square with a board for a desk. Our Co came out here on picket today. we are about 1 mile from camp and are to stay out five (5) days. we have stations of pickets for fifteen miles up the river so you see we are only a few in a place. Capt., Nettleton, Dawson lay sleeping on the floor and six men are all that are on this post.

Our Regt pickets the Tenn River for over 25 miles and has two whole Co's acting as courriers and also 10 men out of each of the rest of the Co's on the same duty. You will know as much of

the rest of this army as I do. The ballance of our Brig are after Wheeler¹⁹ who is running toward Ky. The men around Chattanooga have suffered for want of something to eat but are well supplied now.

This week we drew eleven hard crackers for to last to this time but we had plenty of corn and we made graters and grated it and made mush. then we had all the meat (fresh) we wanted and plenty of salt to salt it with. It kept us pretty busy getting horse feed and feed for our selves. we all like to go on picket as we have chance to get hogs. We have to go on Dallace Island to get corn. I went on picket one day and had had no supper and nothing but Hard Bread and coffee and and some of the others nothing at all. next morning three of us went out and shot a fine sheep about 150 yds from the house while they were out of doors. they thought we had missed as we rode on but as soon as we got in the woods we got off our horses and went back and got it and had good mutton soup for dinner. Our supply train came in last night and brought us plenty of most every thing to eat and wear.

Our old Brig in the Reserve Corps suffered badly in the late battles, the 96th especialy. Jack Hendricks fell into the reb hands but has been paroled and is doing well when last heard from. Our head Doctor was taken and is still in the enemies hands and has been sent to Atlanta. Havlin was sent to Nashville. Eyster is better and is back with the company.

It is about 11 O'clock and I must waken the Capt and go to roost and sleep until morning. Good night, I was not all of the hour writing this. More in the morning.

Ed

Sabbath morning, Oct. 1, 1863

Good morning to you all. I recd a letter from you a few days ago but have onley got one from Maggie since she went to Woodstock. I will write to her tomorrow and scold her a little I guess.

Now about my overcoat. I have put in for a Cavalry one as I thought I could not get it here so you do as you please with that one. Jo, you must not teach this winter as Mother will be to lone-some. have you rented any land yet. How many calves have you raised this season and colts and how many cows do you milk. The Boys are well now. I will close now for this time. Write often.

Ed

19. "Fightin' Joe" Wheeler, Confederate general.

(Diary)

in Tenn Valley

Oct. 13th Co H was relieved from picket at Dallas and Igons and went to strengthen the other posts. We went to Pennys and I was sent with 4 men to the mouth of Soddy Creek. rained hard all day. did not find the post so we camped in an old barn.

14th Got up and cooked breakfast and started for the post. our squad stood the first turn.

15th Nothing of importance happened. still raining. river still raising. Soddy creek not fordable.

18th Sabbath. river still raising. everything as usual.

19th We were relieved at 4 PM by the 39th Ind. did not leave the post tonight.

20th Started for camp with two sick horses at 8 AM and got there at 12½ PM made a bunk and set up tent.

22nd Twenty of Co H and 20 out of other co's under Lt Bailey went to McReas island for corn with 12 waggons. could not get the boats. After night Pettit and I and two others took a scout to hunt some but did not get any.

23rd Was called up at 2 AM to start for camp as there was a report that the rebs were crossing at Washington. Rained hard all morning. got to camp at daylight.

24th A squad of us went to the Island for corn. we rode very fast and past every thing on the way. got back at 5 PM.

25th Co. H was detailed to patrole the river for 9 miles up the river. I was up the latter part of the night.

On picket at Dallager Landing
Oct 10th 1863

Dear Friends

It is now exactly
10 o'clock on Saturday evening and
I have just put on a relief and
having a good fire. I thought
I would write. I am seated in
a log stone room about 14 ft
square with a board for a desk
Our Co. came out here of picket
to day. we are about 1 mile from
camp and are to stay out five
(5) days we have stations of
pickets for fifteen miles up
the river so you see we are
only a few in a place Capt
Pittleton Dawson lay sleeping
on the floor and six men are
all that are on this post
Our Regt picket the Tenn River

CHAPTER X

PICKETING AND SCOUTING IN ALABAMA

Bridgeport, Ala. Oct. 30, 1863

Dear Friends,

I reced yours of the 7th several days ago but had no time or rather no place to answer sooner as it has been raining most of the time since and I can not write very well when the water drops on the paper.

We left camp at Harrison on Monday morning¹ at sunup and got to the Mts (Waldens Ridg) at 8 AM. the roads over the Mts are awful. There was over 100 dead Mules and Horses on top of the Mts. We got over and went into camp about 4 PM. Started next morning earley down the Sequachee Valley. the roads were a trifle better. we camped four miles East of Jasper. Started next morning at sunup and passed through the town at 7 A.M. Jasper is situated in a large levle plain and surrounded by Mountains. ther is some of the finest scenery I ever saw. In fact the different scenes one sees almost pays for soldering.

We arrived at Bridgeport at noon. I looked in vain to see some house or something like a town but there was nothing but soldiers houses. The Railroad bridge² has been burnt but is fast being built again. there is a pontoon bridge over the river. There are some of the Potomac troops here. they put on a great deal more style than we do. they are very jealous of the Army of the Cumberland. The 33 N.J. is the best dressed Regt I have seen yet.

1. October 27th.

2. The Memphis & Charleston R. R. crosses the Tennessee River at Bridgeport.

they are 800 men and have been in 3 months.

We were ordered to this place for the purpose of being equipped fully but the guns are not here yet nor the saddles.

It is raining now and the water drops on the paper some times. You have no idea how much energy it requires for a soldier to keep up correspondents. I had to leave this and be gone an hour when I came back my clothes were damp and that has dampened the paper. I have half a mind to destroy this as it is so poorly written and blotted up so but let her go just as she is.

The horse that I drew first got sick while I was on picket and I got another one. I have got a first rate horse now. he can jump almost any thing I put him at. he is a dark Iron Grey and large sized. I call him Soddy after the creek we picketed on.

Will wanted to know how I liked this kind of service (Mounted Infantry) I like it better than any other. it is better than Cavalry as you have not so much to carry. then we live a great deal better than the infantry as we have only drawn half rations for some time. we can carry corn to the mill and get it ground and have mush and pancakes. While we were on picket we were on 10 days straight along. we got wheat and had it ground then took it to the citizens and got it baked. We had plenty of fresh pork also. Mush and Milk every night for supper. But I expect we will not fare so well for a while as there is nothing left in the country around here. We have nothing but shelled corn for our horses, no fodder of any kind can be had.

You will know all about the affairs of this army by the papers of Rosecrans removal.³ We do not like it. Thomas is a man that I have all confidence in and will fill his place well but Grant is here now. he is just as good as can be found. Hooker is in Lookout valley and has had some fighting.⁴ how it turned out I cant here for certain yet. Geary is here also his old Regt. 8th Pa came on the cars yesterday.

This is now becoming a great point of the war. deserters are beginning to come in again. they say Bragg is falling back. We will soon have 7 Corps here. I recd the stamps and was very glad of them. I would like very much if you would send me a pair of good Buckskin gloves and some needles and thread as I can not get them here. Send my mail. It is cold here nights on picket. love to all
Ed

Raining harder than ever.

3. Rosecrans replaced by Thomas October 19, 1863.

4. "Cracker Line" operations to open up supply lines to Chattanooga.

(Diary)

Nov. 4, 1863 At Bridgeport Ala. 40 men of Co H were detailed to go to Nashville tomorrow for horses and guns.

5th Rained some last night and still continues to rain at noon. Started for the cars at 1 PM. no train came till after dark. got on top of hospital cars. rained till 12 at night. started at 2½. Run very slow. one car run off the track. no harm done. got to Stevenson at daylight on the 6th.

6th stopped at Stevenson until 9 AM passed through the tunnel at 4 PM. Arrived at Nashville at night.

Nashville, Tenn. Nov. 13, 1863

Dear Friends,

I have been somewhat lazy about writing since I came to town. We came here on last Saturday morning at 3 O'clock. We are after horses and saddles. There is a detail of 150 out of the Regt here 40 from our Co. We left Bridgeport on Thursday night. we came on the cars. Since we came here we have got over coats and blankets. we suffered considerable for want of them as it has been quite cool. We have now got full equipments Spencers and saddles. we were camped in the City and have had a fine time.

It makes us all feel good to see a little civilized life again. we were out in the wilderness so long we began to feel rather green. Nashville has improved a great deal since I passed through it last winter. there is a large amount of business done here now mostly military. There are shoulder straps without number to be seen at any time in the streets and drinking shops. The officers drew their pay since we came here. we will get ours as soon as we get back to Bridgeport. I got some money from them.

We got 240 fine horses today and came to this camp just at the edge of town. We will get a lot of mules for the teams tomorrow morning and start in the afternoon. I expect it will take us very near two week to get back to Bridgeport as the horses are very fat and green just from the north and we have the Cumberland Mts to cross. It is very near 200 miles to Bridgeport. I do not expect I will have any chance to write until we get there.

I met Wm. Watson and Tom McClimans here. their Regt is stationed here. they have never been to the front yet. they look well. I was with them all night and saw them every day. William Havlin died the day before we got here from the effects of his wound. he was shot through the left arm below the elbow. Hendricks is better and doing well. he walked about a mile to see us. he had a very severe wound. we thought it was worse than Hav-

lins at first. Havlin was the best soldier in the Co with out doubt.

I have got a very good riding horse to ride back on. I have one to lead also. I have a very poor light to write by and will draw to a close for this time as it is time to go to bed. I will send a book that comes with the guns so you will see what they are. they are just as good as the book says they are.

my love to all.

Ed Cort

P. S. Excuse brevity.

In Camp near Bridgeport, Ala.
November 21st, 1863

Dear Sister Maggie,

The first thing that I do will be to appologise for not writin to you for so long and give the reasons also and see if you think they will do after me scolding you for the same offence but it is easier to preach than to practice.

I supose you know that there was a detachment of the 92nd consisting of 150 men went to Nashville after horses guns and equipments. We started on Thursday the 5th on the cars and arrived at Nashville on Saturday morning at 3½ AM and while there it was so cold and I had no place to writ and to tell the truth I was somewhat taken up with the pleasures and vanities of the City and did not write.

We left on the next Saturday a week after haveing a very pleasant time. It does a person good to see Civilization once and a while after being in the wilderness so long. We got 200 fine horses and 60 mules also new saddles and guns so we are well equiped and mounted now.

We were just six days comming back. We crossed the Mt at Cowen. When we got to Bridgeport we found the Regt on the other side of the river where we are now. When I got to the Co I found four letters and some papers one the Woodstock Sentinal for me two from home one from Ohio and one from you. then today I got another one from you bearing date of 17th of Oct so you see scolding does good and you may scold me just a little bit.

I think Sam Cort done very foolish in taking himself a wife so young. he has scarcely got his freedom yet and has now bound himself again. You need not be afraid of me. For when this cruel war is over I will be a batchelor then. But I would not be surprised if you would be spliced when I get back for **you** appear to think more of matrimony than I.

My health is not very delicate for I onley weigh 155 lbs wich is 15 lbs heavier than I ever weighed before. The rest of the boys

are all enjoying very good health.

Now, Mag I have a favor to ask. that is if it is not too much trouble for you I would like you to send me a copy of that Essay and any other ones you like.

Shermans Corps of Grants army are here now numbering 20,000 and are passing to the front. Dodges Corp is also near from the same place. Old Roseys is back in this department again and everything looks like as if we were going to have some work soon again.

Good night Ed

Opposit Bridgeport, Ala. Nov 23, 1863

Dear Friends,

After a very pleasant march of six days we arrived at Bridgeport on last Thursday evening and found that the Regt had moved to the other side of the river. we did not cross until next morning when we found everything all right and the boys all well except Ren Herinton who has had a turn of Intermitting fever but is now getting better.

We left the Fair grounds next day at noon after I wrote (the 14) and crossed the Cumberland Mountains near Cowen Station on the 17th. It is the best crossing I have crossed on yet. I found four letters for me two from home one from Maggie and one from Ohio which is the first I have reced from there (Ohio) for over three months. I also got some papers which came very good.

In one of the letters was five dollars for which I was very glad of but the Paymaster was here to so I will send it back and a little more also. We were paid off yesterday (Sabbath) for four months which squares us up with the Government to the first of Nov. We settled up our clothing bill also. I have drawn \$71.00 worth of clothing since I came into the service. we are allowed \$3.50 per month for clothing which is to little for Mounted men. Cavalry get more per month. I think we will also soon as we wear out a great deal more clothing now than we did when on foot. I have drawn \$21.39 over my allowance. some have draw \$30.00 over. So I got \$35.60 money including one month pay as a Sergeant. There was only one man in the Co I believe that had not drawn the full amount. that was Lyon but he has nothing to do to wear his clothing.

I lost \$10.00 worth of clothing that I left on the wagon when we first crossed the Mts. I drew a blanket and Over Coat at Nashville which will come on this years account. Overcoat cost \$11.50 blanket \$3.50 so I have a good start for another year. I borrowed

\$10.00 and spent it in Nashville. So I can only send ten dollars out of what pay I drew home. There will be \$15.00 coming to you at Parkers as soon as it gets there. I keep more money with me as we do not get rations regular now and we have to buy things to eat at times when we can get them.

I cant tell how the report about Croff's being sick got out. he has not been sick to amount to any thing to my knoledge. About six weeks ago he was unwell for a day or two. We left him at Nashville well and hearty when we left. he was waiting to get transportation for some guns and saddles for the Regt. the Col. is there also. the road is so busy that they have to wait their turn to get through.

C Edwin Cort

continued from the other sheet

Sherman's Corps is here now for certain for I have seen it so there is a right smart chance for troops arround within 25 miles of this. Rumors from the front today say that our army Started this morning for a forward movement. if it has not moved it will **soon** as the army of the Cumberland has been reenforced by two Corps from the Potomac and two from Vicksburg.

Most of the 12th Corps from the Potomac are guarding the railroad betwene this and Nashville. So there is now seven Corps here under Grant with out Burnside.⁵ the next fight that comes off here if Bragg stands will be **some**. I realy do not wish to see it for if we get in some of us will certainly fall but if we do go in we will go in our best without any hesatation. The Old army of the Cumberland is now composed of The Old 14th, 4th (Formely the 20th and 21st) and Reserve Corps. Then the 11th and 12th from the Potomac and the two Corps from Vicksburg Commanded by able Generals' who are back up by good fighting men. The Mounted forces are mostly opperating in the rear to prevent the Rebs making another raid and cutting off our communications.

You will have to excuse this miserable letter and hope for better some other time. I will not mail this until tomorrow morning. From your affectionate son and Brother

Ed

P. S. The boys, Will and Arth, done well in writing but Jo done bad in not taking a lady to Fulton.

Dec. 1, 1863, Bridgeport, Ala

Dear Friends,

I recd a letter from you this morning and was very sorry to hear that both Mother and Joseph were not well but I hope that

5. A. E. Burnside, Union general in command of the Army of the Ohio, conducting the campaign at Knoxville, Tennessee.

ere this reaches you you will have recovered and be enjoying your usual health. My health is good and the rest of the boys are also in good condition.

I just returned from Bridgeport where I have been seeing the boys of Co D, 79th Penna. They came in yesterday as guards for 3580 prisoners from Chattanooga. I only found three that I knew Captain McBride Billey Graham and Mires the Tobacconist that worked at Griffins. Bentley was discharged. Jo Hazzard is on the staff of their Brig Commander. he lost his left arm at Perryville. they said that J. Bentley had no energy and was very lazy. Rodger Smith is a surgeon in the Rebble service. Sparcks Cooper was killed in the battle of Chickmauga. his father is in the Invalid Corps.

Tom Hodson is a preacher and a very smart man. Zack Carmack is Capt on one of the Line boats and Jerry is first Clerk. Wm. Atkins is a Copperhad Sesh. Bentley has joined the Presby Church and prays in public. Lawrance has bought the Chess farm and lives in town. Alvin King is County Recorder. Cyrus is a surgeon in the Army. B. B. Kerr is in the service some where. Jo Willson was an officer in the Cavalry but was cashiered for cowardise.

Capt Bob Cooper has joined the church also and reformed. Chill Hazzard is still in the service. I believe that is pretty near a list of the boys and men that I rember of. Mary Chess'es husband I O Miller is Col. of the 72nd Ind in our Brigade. I always thought it was the same man and Capt McBride told me he saw his wife as she is with him most of the time. the 72nd is at Huntsville now. I had not much time to talk as they had to go back at 1 PM. Billey Graham looked the most natural. McBride is better looking than he use to be. there was only 17 of the Co. here there is only 27 altogether left. they came out with 95. the most of them have been discharged.

The weather has been very cool for this climate. it freezes ice over the water an inch thick and today is the first time for four days that the frost went out of the ground. It is a hard matter to write when it is so cold but today is nice and I had calculated to write several letters but this will be all I will get done as the sun is not a half an hour high.

we have nothing but our shelter tents yet and we cant build a fire in them. We have plenty of clothes to keep us warm. Bob Reeves and I have six wool blankets together so we are very comfortable at nights. I was out on a scout on last Friday with a squad

of six men. we went on the mountains but did not find any rebs. we had a good time and got some sheep geese and potatoes. 27 men from our Co under Lt Bailey are at Whiteside now on detached duty so we have not very many men here for duty. I am the onley Sergt except the Orderly that is here and I have considerable to do. The Col has not got back from Nashville.

Some of the boys that were not with us at Nashville need clothing pretty badly. I got an out fit when there. We have plenty of grain for our horses but no hay or rough food for them. I dont suppose we will leave here or do anything but scout Racoon Mt until the Colonel comes back. I think he will be here in a few days. The sun is setting gloriously just now and I will stop and feed my horse.

good night and pleasant dreams to you all.

Ed Cort

Wednesday morning, Dec. 2nd

This morning is warm fine and pleasant for writing. I suppose you are hearing the news from the front sooner and more correctly than we do here. This much I know for certain that Grant and his brave Army are giving Bragg and his Gray Backs a sound thrashing and taking a great many big guns and prisoners.⁶ There is another squad of 7,000 to go past here sometime today.

One thing that surprised me was that what prisoners I have seen fully one third of them are Irish. there are also a small sprinkling of Dutch. I know the ground well where the battle is going on or has been as they have driven the enemy farther by this time than we were on the 17th of Sept. I rather think that Longstreet is in rather a tight place for unless he has moved out of the place he was when I last heard from him Sherman is bettwene him and Bragg and Burnside in his rear.

I think I had better close this rather lengthy and disconnected Epistle and get it in the office as the mail will go soon and I want to write one to Maggie this morning and mail with this.

Your's with much Iove,
Ed

Near Bridgeport, Ala, Dec. 2, 1863

Dear Sister:

I have just finished a letter home and will now scratch you one also. I recd one from home yesterday but have not got any from you since I last wrote to you. I find this sunny south is dreadful cold by streaks so much so that I could not write until yester-

6. Battle of Lookout Mountain, Nov. 24, 1863 and Missionary Ridge, Nov. 25.

day or I should have written sooner. It has froze hard for the past four or five nights back and yesterday the frost went out of the ground for the first time for four days.

I am in good health and the rest of the boys are likewise. There has been fighting and still is over the old battle field of Chickmauga. this time the forces were nearer equal and Bragg and his crew of traitors had to leave. we have taken a great many prisoners. I saw 3580 go past this day before yesterday and 7,000 more are to go past today.

The report is current here that Longstreet is captured.⁷ I hope it is true as he is one of the best Gen's the Rebs have and has the best Corps of troops the rebs have in their service. You can get the news just as correct and as soon there as we can here so I can tell you nothing about the fight that will be new to you.

I must close and make a short letter of this as we have just recieved the orders to march in an hour and I have to eat my dinner yet. good bye this time from your Brother Ed. write often.

Capertons ferry, Ala. Dec 12, 1863

Dear Friends,

I have been waiting for to get a letter from you before writing as I have recd none for several days longer than the usual time. I recd one from Maggie a few days ago containing her photograph wich was very good. I also got the package with the gloves thread and needles in. the gloves are just the thing and fit to a T Y t.

Croff got back to the Regt yesterday and is well. The Regt left Bridgeport on the 2nd. I stayed back to turn over some co property and came to this camp next day. we are some 8 miles from Bridgeport and three from Stevenson. We have good quarters. the cavalry that left here had built huts and we found every thing ready for good winter quarters.

There are four of us in this cabin. it is about 8x12 and has a good fire place in it and two bunks one above the other. the roof does not leak any so you see we have splendid quarters for soldiers. we cook in the house. Wood is close and plenty. I come on duty about twice a week.

Capt I R. Hotalling is or was in Bridgeport. he is on Gen Logans⁸ staff. he has not been here yet. Lt Bailey saw him. I was at Stevenson the other day and who should I meet but Major Melingar. he is sutler now. he has resigned his Majorship in the 79th Pa. he looked very natural his very gray. he sends his best respects to you and says his family are all the same excepting that

7. Report untrue.

8. John A. Logan, Union general, commander of the XV Army Corp.

his oldest daughter Janny is dead. He says I look like uncle Dan. he was very friendly.

I suppose it will be about Christmas when this reaches you so I will wish all a happy Christmas. I want you to send all your pictures to me as soon as you can get them so I can see how you look. Maggie has altered some I think for the better. I suppose she will soon be home. she must notify me when she goes back so I can write as I will not write to Woodstock until further orders.

It looks like rain today and is quite warm. The President's Message is here this morning. I have not read it yet. I will today. Lyon is well and look well. My love to all and give my best wishes to every body from

Ed Cort

Hogjaw Valley, Ala.

Dec. 21st, 1863

Dear Friends,

We have changed camp again since last writing. We left our comfortable quarters at Capertons Ferry on last Friday morning and arrived at Bridgeport a little after noon. we lay there untill Sabbath morning at 10 AM when we crossed the river and came here. We are about one mile from our old camp and two from Bridgeport. Hogjaw Valley lies betwene Hogjaw Ridge and Raccoon Mountain and is about 80 rods wide with a small stream running through it.

We were working hard this morning building our habatation when the order came for us to report to our Brig wich is somewhere near Huntsville, Ala and about 90 miles from here so we stopped work on the building and got dinner. We will start in the morning but before morning we may have other orders entirely different. The weather has been very cool lately. the ground is froze hard enough to bear a horse but we are so use to being out all the time we do not mind it. I have good warm clothes both for night and day.

Some of our troops that were after Longstreet are bad off for clothes. Some are bare footed. Longstreet is used up pretty bad. he was not captured but his army was scattered in every direction and some captured. There is an Ala Regt almost filled up with refugees from this state. One Co is camped beside us. they say if we were 50 miles farthur we could get several Regts as there are a great many wanting to go to our Army.

There are a great many of our horses dieing lately. we have nothing to feed but grain. Some of the boys will have to walk

until they can pick up a horse. My horse is all right yet and feels good. I wish that they would keep us moving all winter as I always feel better when we are going. There is not much chance to get a furlough. Lt Col Sheets and Lt Bailey tryed but could not get one so I stand a slim chance.

My health is good so are the rest of the boys. I was sick one day last week with the head acke the first I have had since we left Franklin. Lyon and Nettleton are well. Croff is well also. One of your letters must have missed us. I was three weeks without getting one. Did you get the spencer Book What do you think of our guns. I suppose we will be marching on Christmas. I want you to eat a few **Twisters** for me.

The boys are drawing rations now. Shugar coffe sow belly candles Hard crackers soap. Beans comprise our principle diet. We draw plenty now.

I feel very sorry that James McConaugh is so ill. I hope he will recover. Love to you all and respects to all friends from

Ed

Huntsville, Ala Dec. 27th, 1863
Sabbath evening

Dear Friends,

Almost every letter is from a diferent place of late. We left Bridgeport next morning after I last wrote (21st) and went to our old camp at Capertons ferry and slept another night in our old shanty. The creek betwen there and Bridgeport was very high and bad to cross. there was two horses got down.

Next morning we started at daylight and passed through Stevenson and took a south west direction through Jackson County over the **most awfulest** roads I ever saw. toward evening the country became somewhat higher and the roads better. The soil was a bright red clay. We passed through Bellefonte the County Seat of Jackson County. the town was almost deserted and quite a large part of it burnt down. You have know idea of the desolate appearance of some of the country.

We camped two miles West of the town. our horses were pretty tired having traveled over 25 miles and were onley 11 miles from Stevenson by rail. You may think that 25 or 30 miles is not much for a horse to travle but we have a big load on them and it is a great deal harder to march with a column than alone. I could take my horse and go 40 miles alone easier than 25 with Reg.

24th Started a little after sunup. The morning was very frosty trees al covered with frost. Passed through an Ala Swamp on a

Cordaroy road. The road run near the Charleston & Memphis R. R. Passed through Scottsboro at noon. it is a small town. in the afternoon we passed through Larkinsville. Crossed several high and rocky hills. had plenty of corn for our horses. Camped about 4 PM.

Christmas morning had Coffee crackers sowbelly for breakfast. Day cloudy and chilly. had a very pleasant march. Passed over Paint Rock River and the Station 2 miles further. at noon we got to Brownsboro where We met Col Wilder on this road to join his command. he has been at home ever since the battle of Chickmauga. he had some Sanitary stores⁹ for the 72nd Ind which he distributed to us. we called him out and he gave us a short speech. we gave him three hartey Cheers and went on our road rejoicing he went with us. the reason we got the stores was the 72nd were gone to Florance and the R R bridge over Flint river was burnt.

We crossed Flint river camped within 6 miles of Huntsville. I went on picket. stood on the side of a Mountain had a cold rain storm that night and no shelter. went to camp at daylight. That is the way I spent my Christmas and Christmas night in Dixie.

Monday morning, December 28th, 1863

I had to stop last night because my candle burnt out and that was the last one. It rained very hard last night. Well to the march again. We pulled out about sunup. it was still raining. The country began to grow better and in the vicinity of Huntsville the country is splended. The plantations are large and the residences large and with the negro quarters around look like small towns. Huntsville is situated on the edge of a large plain or prairie and is a very pretty city some larger than Dixon, Ill I should think. We arrived in town about 9 AM and drew five days rations. Went one mile west of town and camped where the rest of the Brigade had camped. Got pretty comfortable quarters. It rained all night.

Yesterday morning Co's D & H were detailed to forage for the Regt. We had to press teams as ours have not got up yet. We had a very wet day of it. we got plenty of foder and corn is very plenty. very little of it is husked yet. There has never been an army stationed here and the country has not suffered much onley from stagnation of business. The railroad is cut and no trade of any kind is going on at present. But it will soon be different as the 15 Army Corps (Loguns) is on their way here to fix the railroad. When that is fixed we will have a much shorter rout to transport provisions over than the Nashvill and Bridgeport road.

9. Packages of special food and toilet articles distributed by the Sanitary Commission.

The next question is where are we going. we are onley waiting here for our train to come up and then we will move to Florance via Decature and from there rumor says various places. some say Texas. From all I can learn I rather think we are on our way to the Missippia river any how if no further. We may be only going to West Tenn after Wheeler & Forrest.

I think our teams will be here today or tomorrow. We are in Crooks¹⁰ Divis now. he commands the 2nd Div of cavalry. Lt Col Sheets is going home on a furlough or gone. We all wish he would stay home. Capt Nelson is as pleasant as a basket of chips now. Bailey is the best Commishuned officer we have and is the smartest man in the Co. Croff is with the train. The boys are all well. we always feel better while on the move no difference what kind of weather.

good by from Ed

Camp near Pulaski, Tenn. Jan 8, 1864

Dear Friends,

I have been waiting for several days for the weather to get warmer so that I could write but it is still so cold that I cannot write with ink so I will try with a pencil.

I tryed day before yesterday but the ink froze as fast as I could get it on the pen. I wrote last from Huntsville, Ala. We left Huntsville on the 31st of Dec. it rained all day. we onley marched 9 miles and camped in the woods. it rained until midnight. then turned in and froze. in the morning it was frozen hard enough to bear a six mule team. It was 7 degs below Zero. Such was the morning of the 1st of Jan 1864. we spent New Years day in walking and running to keep warm. Some of the boys froze their toes and fingers.

We Camped at 3 PM at ElkMont springs in houses. it is a southern watering place and fixed up in good Style. it is considered a very healthy place. We did not start next morning until 10 AM then onley went 7 miles as the roads were so rough that the teams could not make much headway. We found forage plenty all along the road.

On the 3rd Co H were rear guard and half of the co was in rear of the train. we crossed Elk river in the morning on a pontoon Bridge and had to push the wagons up a long hill as it was so slippery that the mules could not pull much. Just at dark the last wagon stuck in a deep hole and we had to dismount and go in the mud and get it out. We did not get up to the Regt but camped near a

10. George Crook, Union general.

creek. I was on picket but we got a blacksmith shop for Head Quarters. it rained hard all night but were in a good place. Next morning we forded the creek and got to the Regt at 10 AM and to this camp at 1 PM.

We are camped on the side of a hill in the timber about one and half miles from Pulaski the County seat of Giles County on the Nashville and Decature RR. The rest of the Brig is here and most of the Div also. Gen Crook commands the Divis. There is a part of the 16th Army Corps here also under Gen Dodge. The 17th Ind. Wilders old Regt in our Brig have reenlisted as Vetrans and gone home on a furlough to fill up. Wilder went back with them. Col Atkins commands the Brig at present. The 5th Iowa cavalry have reenlisted and gone home to recruit.

* The 52nd Ill have also reenlisted and are going home this week. I saw Henery Lamb and stayed all night with him. I will send my pass book home with him. Lyon also sends some things which he is to leave with you. Three pictures two of them he found. the photograph is T. M. Nedhams our former Drum Major. He lives in Rockford and is a patictular friend of Lyons. also some specimens of rock found in a cave on Raccoon Mts. I think Henery has improved and he is a good soldier.

My book has almost wore out and rubed out also but I want it saved. I recieved the picture and the Pin. the likeness are excellent I think. I am very much pleased with the present and thank you very much for it. We are all in good health and spirits considering the weather. If this is the sunny south I would not like to see frozen North Zone. We live in our shelter tents open at the ends. we have plenty of wood to burn.

I must close as you will not be able to make half of it out by the time it gets through. I have not recd any thing but the picture for a long time. we have only had one mail since we left Bridgeport. I have not seen a newspaper since last at stevenson so am behind the times somewhat. Good bye love to all C. E. Cort

Send some stamps if you please. We expect mail today.

* My Father, E. M. Thomas, was a corporal with the 52nd Ill. infantry. In later years when he & E. C. Cort both lived in Thurman, S. D. both belonged to the Grange. The P. I. G. A. R. & I am sure they must have combated many ¹²⁵ many times E. M. Thomas must with Sherman or his men at sea
R. J. B.

CHAPTER XI

WINTER IN ALABAMA; SPRING IN GEORGIA

(Diary) January 12, 1864 Left camp at Pulaski at 10 AM and marched 20 miles. crossed Elk river at Elkton. the water was up to the horses sides. Camped near Elkmont springs.

January 13 The 92nd took the lead today. Marched 20 m's. Camped about 10 miles from Huntsville. found plenty of forage.

January 14 On picket last night. Took the rear and did not start until the train was past then had to run fast all the way. Reached Huntsvill about noon. Camped about 1 mile from town in the timber. Expect to go into winter quarters.

January 22 Huntsville, Ala. On picket on the Merideanvill pike.

Huntsville, Ala. Jan. 28th, 1864

Dear Friends,

It is now ten or twelve days since I have writen to you. So I take the first oppertunity to write. My health is excelent. the rest of the Co are well onley a little tired and sore. We just got back yesterday evening from a five days scout which accounts for me not writing sooner.

We left camp on last Saturday the 23 at noon and marched some 16 miles toward Athens.¹ Next morning (Sabbath) we started at daylight passed through Athens at 9 AM. It is a small town and like all the towns in these parts shows the effects of **War**. Crossed Elk river at dark and camped near it. we were some five miles

1. Athens, Ala.

from the Tenn river. We started early on the 25th and crossed Shoal Creek about noon.

Our advance came up with the rebs soon after. some 200 were crossing at Lambs ferry but we soon drove them back killed 3 and took some prisoners. Our Command consisted of about 300 of the 92nd, 200 of the 98th Ill and about 100 of the 72nd Ind under the command of Col's Miller & Atkins all armed with Spencers.

Comming back to the main road our Advance Co I 92nd came in contact with the advance of a reb colum. four Co's IFC & B were ordered forward on the double quick. Co H was then the advance of the rest. they soon had to dismount and skirmish their way. pretty soon the work became livley and we halted. the rebs made a charge on foot but the skirmishers drove them back. then they charged again both on horse back and on foot. the balls flew around us pretty thick.

Co H were ordered to dismount and form across the road and hold it if the skirmishers were broken in front. The rest of the men formed on each side of the road in single rank forming a line about one half mile long. The rebs were in a thick woods and one co in a large and strong log house. Our skirmishers were in a woods with a narrow open space in their front between them and the rebs. Our main line was formed in an open space about 80 rods from the first woods Co H on the open road, the 98 on our left and 72nd on our right. The rest of our regt four Co's (Co D was back at Huntsville) on the left flank of the 98th.

Our orders were to yell as loud as we could. Col Miller rode up and gave the Command Forward boys double quick give them h—l and away we went on the run ylling as loud as we could. we kept a first rate line. when we came to the woods we halted a minute to get wind then on we went. The skirmish line was about 40 rods in the woods. the minute we passed it we let them have a volley that sent them on the full run. The rebs orders were to wait until we fired our volley then charge us but we had six more loads to give them but the first was as much as they could stand with out running. we followed them some distance but were ordered to halt as it was about dark and we did not know their force.

We had six men wounded and none killed. two of Co I, 2 of Co B and two of Co F. onley one is a very bad wound. it is one of Co B through the hip. The rebs lost 15 killed that we found and a large number wounded. three wounded were so bad that they could not be taken a way. we killed one Capt and one Lt and took one capt and two lts and 8 men prisoners, the Captain that was killed had

a large revolver in his hand. when he fell he run it in his mouth six inches and his teeth were set fast on it. The rebs were the 4 & the 7 Ala cavalry how many we dont know.

We had to march back some four miles to get forage. We were in the saddle by one in the morning as papers were found of an attack to be made on Athens. I had charge of the Prisoners to guard them. We marched until daylight and stopped and fed. Word came that Athens was safe so we started again for Florance, reenforced by the 9th Ill and the 18 Mo Mt. Inft. We had went some 6 or 7 miles when a dispatch came that the rebs had taken Athens so we turned and went for Athens which place we reached at 7 PM having rode over 60 miles from one AM and found no rebs but they had atacked the place at day light and as there was onley some 60 men took it but found nothing there. they did not stay long but left and crossed the river. Our scout prevented a raid as the troops that we fought at Lambs ferry and those that we whiped near Florance and the ones that took Athens were to concentrate near Athens for that purpose.

We came back here to our old camp yesterday some tired with our horses pretty well wore out. I found a letter here for me dated the Jan. 18th and two papers. the stamps came all right. I also recd a wedding card from W. H. Lamb which prehaps may be intended as a **sell**. I will send it for you to see. Orin Sturtevant is all right. I will always let you know if any one of the Co are dead but myself.

There is some one that raised a good many false reports about Co H. The weather is very fine now and has been for about two weeks. I am writing with my coat off. I must close this hastily written letter as I want to write to Uncle Johns today. Lt Bailey has gone home on a leave of absence. he has taken a Spencer gun with him. it is worth going to see. The Leut is a fine man. I did not like him at first but I think a good deal more of him than any other officer that we have. still he is a great wire puller.

Love to all from

Ed

(The cars comenced running yesterday)

If that card is a sell, don't say a word about it.

Triana, Alabama, Feb. 6, 1864
Madison County

Dear Friends,

I wish you could see the house that I live in (that is if a soldier lives any where). I think we are fixed up right cosy and nice. Well I will try and tell you something what it is like. There are

two of us stops together. each one has a piece of shelter tent which is 5½ feet square which comprises the roof. then it is boarded up some two feet high on the sides and one end is closed clear up. Our bunk is raised about six inches from the ground and six inch side boards. then it is filled up with corn leaves and I call it a good bed. Our house is then about 7 feet square open to the East. we have two straps fastened to the ridge pole in which our guns hang ready for use at any time. our saddles are at the foot of the bed. I have a box for a desk which is a luxury.

Bob Reeves is and has been my bunk mate ever since Croff left the Co. he is a pretty good one although very ignorant. he attends to his own business and is clean and neat. Sometimes there are four or more bunk together but I like two best. There are very few in the Company that are much company to me although there are some good boys here but our tastes dont gibe. (This is for yourselves alone to know).

I get a hold of some little reading once and a while. that is the best company that I can get. I have the reading of Cowper's Pomes now which I like very much. I reced those two little books (Proverbs) which mother sent. I have not gave Croff his yet. I told him to come down tonight and I will give it to him. They are very handy to carry. You wanted to know if I had my Bible yet. I have carried it all right so far and will as long as I can. There are not a great many in the company that carry one now.

When I begin to think I have not written to you since we came to this place which was on the 30th of Jan. I was on picket and did not know we were going until word was sent me to bring my men in and found the Regt had started so we followed.

Triana is 15 miles south of Huntsville on the Tennessee River. it is a very pretty site for a town but not much of a town is to be seen. The country arround is level with some swamps. The soil is a sort of red clay not very rich. The timber is heavy. The people are mostly secesh. the biggest part of the white ones have gone across the river into Rebledom to starve to death. The men are mostly Free Masons which helps them as all of our regemental officers are Free Masons also and must show **some brotherly love** even to **Secesh**. The rebs picket the other side of the river strongly now.

Brigade HdQtrs are here also although the 92nd is the onley Regt that is here. the rest of the Brig are scattered arround in different places. Atkins still commands the Brig. Col Miller is commanding the Division at present. It is raining today and is cool

and chilly. Some of the trees are beginning to show signes of **leaving** around here. We are signing the Pay rolls today and there is some talk of our getting some Greenbacks tomorrow. We will onley get two months pay this time. We have near four months pay due us now.

I reced a letter from Maggie the other day. I will close this as I am a bout run out of anything to write. Write as often as you can as it does me good to hear from home. The health of the company is very good. One of our Co got a furlough yesterday and will start tomorrow for Ill. his name is Starkey. it is for 20 days and dated here. I dont want one if I could get one for that short a time.
Love to all
Ed Cort

(Diary) February 10, 1864 Detailed for picket today. Stood at Fletchers ferry three miles from Camp.

Feb. 11 Was relieved at 4 PM.

Feb. 14 On picket on the Moresvill road. Sent \$20.00 Home by William Bailey who went Home on a sick furlough.

Feb. 17 Triana. On picket at Giles Ferry below Triana.

Feb. 20 Went on picket down the river to Giles Ferry. Had charge of the patrole. Went down to the mouth of Limestone River. The rebs fired on us. we returned the fire. Went down the river again after dark. lay at the landing for an hour and a half but no rebs came over.

Feb. 21 Night cool. Day fine and warm. Were relieved at 10 AM got to camp at noon. Went to church in the evening in Triana.

Triana, Ala. Feb. 23rd, 1864

Dear Friends,

I have just finished a letter to Maggie and will now write one to you. First I will complain a little. I have only recd one letter from Maggie this year and the last from you bears the date of Feb 4 so you see I am in the dark as to wheather you are living dead sick or well. I think there is something wrong with the mail. Yesterday I got a valentine which came from some place in Ill and was mailed on the 18th. it was onley four days on the road. I write a letter every week to you some times oftener but you do not appear to get them all.

My health is very good. the Company are all well as usual. We have had quite a cold snap here for the last week but it has moderated some the last few days. I came on picket every other day lately. two nights in camp and one on picket but I guess I will get three nights this time as I am not detailed today.

I hope the spring campaign will soon open as I want to be moving again and keep moving until this war is over. The confederate Government appears to be going to make one desperate struggle this spring but I think and hope it will be the last as their recourses are about all gone and it will be nothing more than the death throes of the Confederacy. The thing may die hard but I think we have got thm pened up so that they will not hurt many.

I have a talk with some of the rebs every time that I am on picket. They dont appear to know much about what is going on either side and all they want is the war to end and it makes no difference to most of them which side whips. Just as soon as we move over the river they will desert in large numbers. as it is they are comming over very fast but the river is a great obstacle here as it is well guarded on the other side by confederate troops. I hope I will get a letter today as I am getting anxious to hear from you
from Ed

(Diary) Feb. 24, 1864 Day clear and windy. Twenty seven of Co H went out on a scout under Lt Dawson toward Limestone creek. We policed the Co ground this morning.

Feb. 26 Day clear and warm. On picket got on the lower post at Hunleys Ferry. Had charge of the patrol. Went down to Lime stone creek in the morning found nothing there. Patrolled down to Limestone in the forepart of the night. saw some signal lights made on our side of the river but could not find out who made them.

Feb. 27 Day clear and warm. At 4 AM Patrolled down the river about 4 miles but saw nothing. Were relieved at 10 AM got to camp at 12 M.

Feb. 28 Had preaching in the afternoon. The Lords Supper was administered to all soldiers that wished to partake. after the soldiers there was about 30 blacks partook also.

Triana, Madison Co, Ala. Mar 2nd, 1864

Dear Friends,

I have always heard it said that the longer that a person is away from home and the loved ones at home the less he thinks of them. the rule is not a good one or else I am an exception for I think more and oftener of home now than I did when I first landed in Ky. I would not have you think that I am homesick or tired of the war for I do not in tend to get tired of it until it is ended and homesickness is something I never have had nor do I intend to have it but I do not think there is an hour in the day

that home does not come into my mind. I am contented here knowing that it is a duty and even a privilage to be here or to have good health to be here. And I have strong hopes that be fore long some of us at least will see the end of this War but this is enough of this for this time at least.

My health is very good at present. the health of the Co. and Regt is good. We have had two rainy days and nights but to day is fine and clear. Eligah Tilton started home on a furlough yesterday. He is the man that done our first threshing. It is likely that he will be over to see you as he will be at Heringtons to see them.

I supose you all knew that yesterday was my 23rd Birthday. I thought of Mother and Will on theirs and hoped that they would have a good time. I am getting old fast and will soon be an old Batchelor. Well I will tell you how I spent the day. I did not get up until late (after sun rise) and had breakfast about eight of hard tack fresh pork and coffee. It rained all day and so I had to stay in my tent most of the time. had dinner of the same material as breakfast. In the afternoon I sent to town and got \$1.00 worth of pies four for \$1.00 and Lyons was here and six of us eat the pies. then I got the cigars but I do not smoke myself and we spent a very pleasant afternoon toking about matters and things in general and old times in paticular.

In the evening I went a visiting to another tent and examined some heads and had a very good time. I am studing Phrenology some little now. I have got a book that I sent after. The Army is a splendid place to study it as you have every kind of character here to try your hand on that you want.

There are still some deserters comming over occasionally when they can get a chance to cross the river. We still picket the river heavy for some twelve miles. Everything seems to move off in the even tenor of its way and nothing of importance happens so I have nothing of importance to communicate. Mr. Lyon was here and send his best respects to all of you. I will close leaving more white paper than usual this time.

Love to all from Ed

I reed a letter from you and one from Maggie on last saturday also one valentine. You must all learn to talk Dutch as you are getting so many dutch neighbours.

(Diary)

March 3 On picket at Fletchers Ferry. Had charge of the Patrole.

March 6 Detailed for forage. Went six miles West and got back at 1 PM. Had review at 2 PM before Col. S. D. Atkins and Inspection. Dress Parade at 5 PM.

March 7 On picket at Watkin's Ferry with nine men, 6 for guard and 3 for patrol. rained the forepart of the night.

March 10 Triana, Ala. On picket at Hanleys Ferry. have charge of patrol. Started down the river at 3 PM and came back at 10½ in the night.

March 11 Day cloudy and windy. Were relieved at 11 AM and got to camp at 12 M. Found Lt Bailey there and three Letters and one hat.

March 14 Was on picket on the post at Watkins ferry. Two deserters came over at 8 PM.

March 15. Day cloudy and could. Were relieved at 9 AM. Played ball most of the afternoon.

Triana, Ala. March 22, 1864

Dear Friends,

I recieved your letter of the 10th day before yesterday and was happy to get it. I also got two papers yesterday (Standards). My health is very good. the general health of the Regt is very good also.

I came off picket yesterday noon. Night before last it began to snow at 10 oclock and snowed untill 9 AM next morning and there was five inches of snow on the ground. It began to melt about noon and most of it was gone by night but it froze pretty hard last night. Today is fine and will take the rest of it away.

We had some grand mimic battles yesterday snowballing. The whole Regt were at it. Co's I & H drove Co's A & E all into their tents after about an hours battle. It made me think of old times at school. It is the kind of fighting that suits me the best as there are no broken bones after the contest is over.

The boxes got here yesterday and Co. H. are now fareing sumptuously. The cans of butter came all right and are quite a treat as we have flour now and can make pan cakes. The cans will make good cups to make coffee in when on picket. Bob Reeves also got some things so we will have some extras for a while.

I have been looking for Joe's picture for over a month but it has never come to hand so I suppose it has never been sent. I want it so old fellow dont back out it is to late now. I will get mine taken the first time I can get to Huntsville if they have a **Machine** strong enough to take the critter as he is.

The recruits that Leut Bailey got have not got here as yet but are expected soon. It will be hard to get horses for a while as horses are scarce in this Dept at present.

Well to tell the truth my pond is about run out and I have not much to write now days as there is nothing of any account happening. There is some talk now that Wheeler has or is going to make another raid in our rear. If he does I hope the (Nasty 2nd) 92nd will have a hand in the fun of catching him. For if he comes over the Tenn river a gain we will certainly gobble him as our horses are now fresh. The other time all the horses were run down and Wheelers were fresh so he could run the fastest.

Love to all and excuse brevit this time from

Ed

Triana, Alabama, April 2, 1864

Dear Friends,

It has been longer than usual since I last wrote to you. The reason is that while on picket the 25th of last month I Smashed or bruised my middle finger on my right hand but it is better now. the nail is going to come off.

I just got in camp off picket. I have been on picket 16 times since the first of February. We are going to leave here tomorrow morning for Calumbia, Tenn, I think. We are going in to Tenn any how. We have been in this camp longer than any other since we were mounted. We came here the 30th of Jan and will leave the 3rd of April. We have had a rather pleasant time here. Our quarters are pretty comfortable. Mr. Lyon and I have been very sociable and have spent a good many pleasant evenings together. I like him better as a companion than any one in the co. I have the best health this winter that I ever had in my life. I have never had the least bit of a cold this winter.

We are going to Calumbia to get the Brigade together and get rigged up for the summers campaign. There has been some talk that this Brig were going to be transferred to another Dept.

As my finger is still stiff I will close for this time. It will take us about 6 or 7 days to go through and I will not write until I get through. I recd a letter from Maggie a few days ago. I will not write to her at Woodstock again untill she gets home.

Love to all from

Ed

April 3 Day pleasant. On the March. Started at 7 AM went by way of Madison Station. Went into camp 2 miles from Huntsville and had got our tents pitched when The Boots & Saddle call

blowed and we went through Huntsville and camped one mile East of town. We had orders to report to Ringold via Chattanooga. Traveled 18 miles.

April 4 Day cloudy and unpleasant. Rained hard last night. Started at 9 AM and arrived at Brownsboro at 11 AM. Stopped one hour until the train came up. Rained very hard. Roads very muddy and creeks high. At 2 PM crossed a very deep and muddy creek. a good many of the horses got down in the mud. Camped about 5½ PM. Marched 35 miles.

April 5 On the March Day cloudy and cool. Started at 7 AM and marched pretty steady all day. Pass through a very rough country. Camped near the town of Bell Fonte.² Had no forage for our horses either night or morning. Marched 28 miles.

April 6 Day clear and fine. On the March. Started at 7 AM and crossed several creeks. roads very bad. passed through several Alabama swamps and over Cordaroy roads. Arrived at Stevenson at 3 PM and camped about one ½ mile from town. Got forage for our horses. Marched 23 miles.

April 7 Day Pleasant. On the march. Started at 7 AM and found the road betwene Stevenson and Bridgeport pretty good. arrived at Bridgeport at 10½ AM and went into camp on our old camp ground.

April 8 Stopped in camp all day. Went down to town. Had no feed for our horses.

April 9 Bridgeport, Ala. Went to town in the morning. Waggon train came up at noon. are to leave for Chat. in morning.

Ringgold, Gorgia, Aprile 16, 1864

Dear Friends,

I have been looking anxiously for a letter from you. We have recd but one mail since leaving Triana and it I got nothing. I wrote you a letter from Bridgeport.³ We left there on the 10th and marched over some awful roads. Camped betwene Shell mound and Whiteside Station.⁴

In the morning we pulled out at 7 AM and pass over the corner of Lookout Mt at Chattanooga and Camped at the foot of Mission Ridge in Rossville, Gorgia. Started at 9 AM on the 12th and arrived at Ringgold at 2 PM and went into camp North of the town. We have got a fine Camp ground and are fixed up pretty well allready.

Our pickets are about 3 miles in the front of this. The picketing the Mted forces have to do is some 9 miles from here. I have

2. Bellefonte, Ala.

3. Bridgeport, Ala. This letter is missing.

4. Just over the line, in Tennessee.

not been on picket since we came yet. I was on camp guard yesterday and last night. Gen Baird (Our old commander) is in command here. his Div has the front. The country is very rough between here and Dalton. There is a ridge in our front about like Mission Rige which we hold. Our pickets are in sight of the rebs and occasionally exchange shots with them.

There has been considerable talk lately that we were to be dismounted. Col Atkins is trying his best to have it done. all the rest of the officers want to be Mounted. If we are dismounted the Regt is ruined for the boys will not ammount to much on foot as they have forgotten how to walk. I think we will either be dismounted or organised as cavalry. Horses are very hard to get and we have now some 200 dismounted men with the recruits. Our Regt has filled up and is as large as it was when we came out.

The mail has just come but no letter from home. I got one from Clay Minier Stating that John Douthit was dead but no particulars. I hear by the other boys that he got shot accidentally. Poor fellow. It would have been better for him to have been in the army where he could not have been more than shot. Clay's letter was mailed 7th. I will close for this time by sending love to all.

from Ed

Ringgold, Gorgia, April 26, 1864

Dear Friends,

I recieved yours of Mar. 30th, 1864 a few days ago and would have answered sooner but I just came back yesterday from a turn of 48 hours picket.

As we were getting ready to go Saturday⁵ word came that the rebs had Gobbled one of the posts. We found it to be to true. Two Regt's of Inft and one of Cav had sorournded two of the posts which were about one mile apart and killed wounded and captured 32 men of the 92nd. 4 were killed out right and 7 wounded. All have since died except three and one of them cant live the Dr says. They were all shot except one after they had surrendered. William Gifford out of our Co was killed. Corp Storkey, Ben Noe and Mahlon Koker were taken prisoners. Willie Hills was killed of Co. K.

The picket posts are about 8 miles from camp and one Regt of Inft and some cavalry got between them and camp and blockaded the roads. The farthest post was under the charge of a Lieut of Co K. they fired on the rebs, then mounted and kept up a running fight for a mile when they came to where the road was blockaded and they were captured and dismounted and had to

5. April 23, 1864, Skirmish, Nickajack Trace or Gap.

keep up to the horseman and whenever they got a little tired they were shot down. some were shot twice.

Capt Turner of the 1st Tenn Reb Cav shot most of our boys. They were all Tenn troops. When we got to the post we formed a line of skirmishers and moved to the top of the ridge but the enemy had left. The posts have been strengthened and fences all tore down and a strong reserve made so that there will be quite a fight before the thing happens again.

The 92nd have always been very kind to prisoners but after this there will be very few taken by us. For my own part I had made up my mind some time back never to be taken for a person stands very little chance with them. if they dont shoot him they will starve him. Wm Hills remains were sent home. the rest were buried in a very pretty spot yesterday afternoon. Gifford has a brother in our Co and he was with us when we were going to relieve the pickets and found his brother laying dead in the road. We have to be on picket 48 hours at a time now.

I have drawn a kind of a map of the position of the posts so that you can understand the way the boys were caught. The road is patrolled now every half hour so as to prevent stopping it up. It is my opinion that the enemy are going to attack us in a few days or else they are falling back. If they dont do something in a few days I think we will try them a clip.

We were Inspected last week by Gen Eliot⁶, Chief of Cav of the Army of the Cumberland. he says that we have the best layed out and cleanest camp in the Dept. We have cedar trees planted in the streets and every in pretty good order.

Lt Col Sheets and Major Bohn have resigned and started for home yesterday. I think the reason of Sheets resigning was that he and Atkins fell out about the dismounting arrangement. Sheets did not want us dismounted. Atkins has failed. he cant do it and he is in a very bad humor about it. We would all like to see Atkins leave although he is a good officer but if he cant have his way he is mad at every body and thing. We have several Capts that are competent to take command. Our ranking capts ar splendid officers. I will close this time.

Ed

I am in good health.

Ringgold, Ga. May 1st, 1864

Dear Friends,

I recieved your very welcome letter bearing date of the 23rd and mailed at Lee Centre on the 26th yesterday morning. The last

6. Washington Lafayette Elliott, Union general.

letter which I wrote on the 26th of April I forgot to mention that I had reced the Album all safe. I was very much pleased with the present and still more so with the pictures. You will please thank the kind friends that sent them for me and if you get any more pleas send them along. Joes picture is very good only a little sour looking. I am almost sorry that I shaved my whiskers off before I got a chance to get my picture taken as it will spoil the looks of the picture some.

The health of the Co is very good. The rebs have been bothering our picket posts a good deal of late. On last Thursday morning⁷ they got arround another post of 7 men but did not get anything but 4 horses. On Friday morning⁸ at 1 Oclock we were waked up and every man that had a horse went out on a scout to stir the rebs. The 3rd Ky led the way out. There was about 500 Mt men and three regts of Inft and two guns followed in the rear.

We started the reb pickets first at day break but they had the roads blockcaded and we could not follow them very fast. they got to camp had it stird up and we met the rebs in force a bout ½ miles from their camp. The 3rd Ky formed and gave them a short fight then they had to fall back. 5 Co's of the 92nd were formed in the edge of the woods and as soon as the Ky boys got through our lines we opened on them and sent them back to the woods a flying. then we kept up a sharp fight for a bout ½ an hour. we were about 300 yds apart. We had a couple of men hit and also several horses. We done most of our firing on horse back.

We were ordered to fall back as the General had orders not to bring on a general engagement. We had got about 2 miles when the rebs pitch into our rear guard and drove. then the 3d K formed and opened on them. We formed about 60 rods behind the 3rd and pretty soon the rebs got on a hill in our front and one on our left and got a cross fire on us. the Kys stood pretty well but fin- ealy fell back to our left.

Col Murry⁹ tried to get them to make a saber charge but they thought the rebs were too strong and would not go. He then told the 92nd to draw their sabers and charge. Some of the boys told him we had no sabers. he sayed to charge any how and awy we went or the most of us. some few did not go. We had onley got about 200 yds when Colonel Atkins made us halt and started us back when Col Murry rode up to him and swore at him and sayed let the boys go. the minute he sayed go about fifty of us mostly

7. April 28, 1864.

8. April 29, 1864, Recon, from Ringgold toward Tunnel Hill.

9. Eli Huston Murray, Union officer.

Co H started on the full run for the hill. The rest of the Regt could not keep up with us. We halted when we were within about 200 yds of them and fired a volley. we had two fences to cross but we went over the top of them.

I went a little to the right with a few men to flank them and in less than 10 minutes from the time we started we had the hill after charging over $\frac{1}{2}$ mile through a cross fire and in face of superior numbers. the rebs had pretty good breast works. You ought to have heard us cheer when we got to the top of the hill. The rebs stood untill we were within 10 yds of them. I fired 8 rounds on the charge. The regt was soon all up and I would like to have seen 3000 rebs take it back. We held the hill a little while and then started back toward Ringgold. the rebs did not follow us any more. The Infnt did not take any part. All the fighting was done on horse back.¹⁰

I fired 22 rounds altogether. Co H had one man wounded. Corp John Lee in the foot a flesh wound. Co D had two men wounded one mortaly and the other had to have his arm amputated. the 3rd Ky lost one man killed and several hurt. we had quite a number of horses wounded. I have got a first rate horse. he is not very pretty but tough and shure footed. he can go over any common fence or log without any trouble and stands fire well.

Gen Kilpatrick¹¹ of Potomac fame is commander of our Divs. we all like him well and call him Corporal Kilpatrick. he is as pleasant and cool in action as can be. His horse was wounded. Col Murry of the 3rd Ky commands our Brig. we like him well also. Killpatrick says the 92nd must have sabers for they charge so well. It was the first charge we ever made on horseback. This letter is privet.

Capt Nelson done splended. There is not a coward in our Co I do not think. I just came off Line guard this morning. Herery Glenn of Ogle is in Ringold clerking. Give my respects to all friends.

Love to all from Ed

I am very glad that you have bought a Piano. you have done just right in buying it.

(Diary) April 30, 1864 Ringgold, Ga. Day cloudy with rain. Detailed for police Guard.

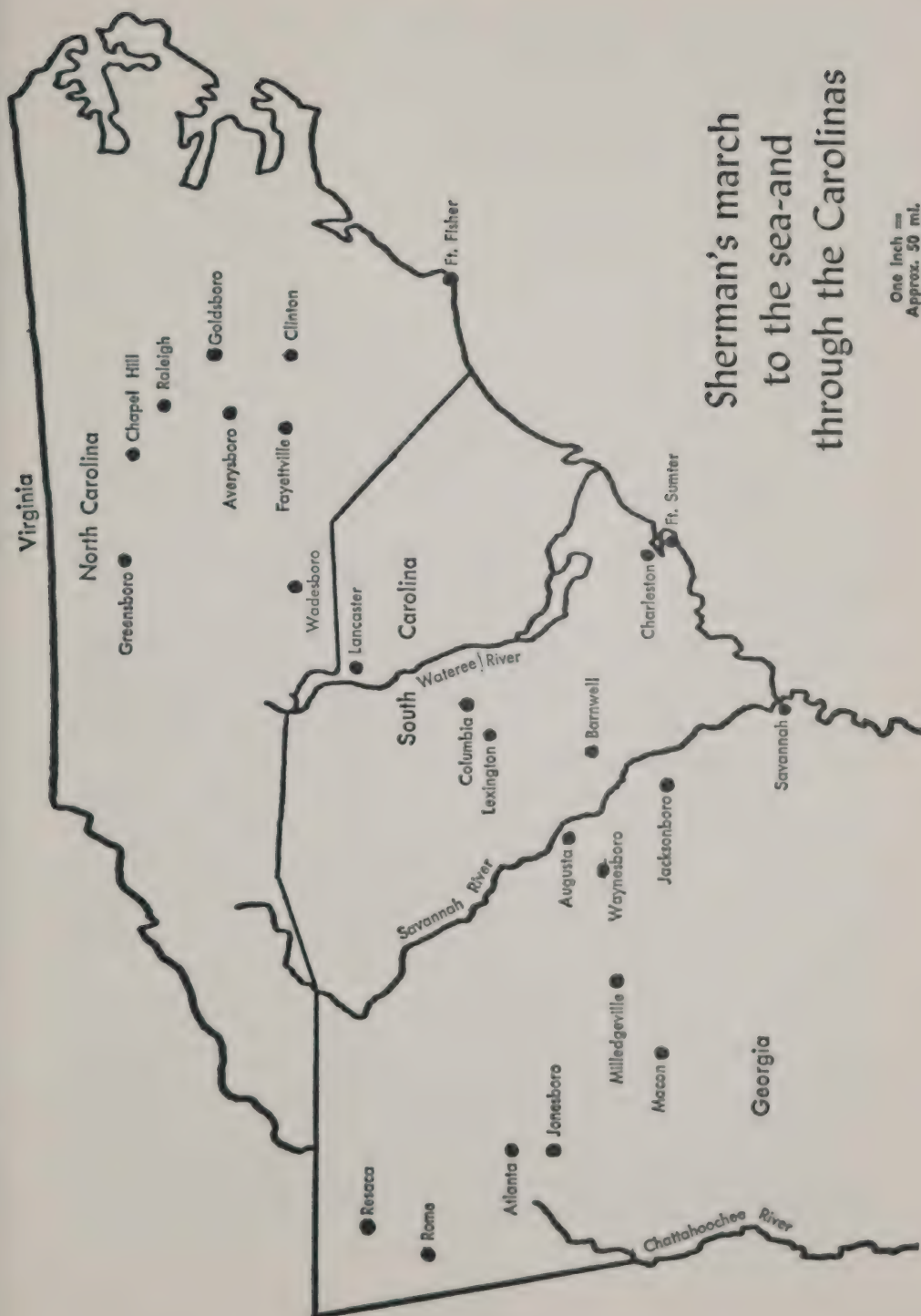
May 1 Day cloudy. Was relieved at 8 AM.

May 2 Day clear and plesant. Ringgold, Ga. Ordered out at 3 AM to go on a scout. Started at day light. Drove the rebs within

10. Skirmish, Tunnel Hill.

11. Hugh Judson Kilpatrick, Union general.

2 miles of Tunnel Hill station when they made a stand. The 92nd Dismounted and charged. the rebs run like sheep. Went within ½ mile of the town. we had good Inft support. got back to camp at noon. One man wounded in 92nd. Two Cvy men killed.



Sherman's march to the sea-and through the Carolinas

One Inch =
Approx. 50 ml.

CHAPTER XII

UNDER FIRE: THE ATLANTA CAMPAIGN OPENS¹

In Camp near Resaca, Ga. May 15, 1864

Dear Friends,

I hear that there is a mail going out tomorrow morning at 6 AM and I will write you a few lines by the camp fire. I am in good health and so far have escaped without a scratch and the rest of the Co. have also escaped. Our Div opened the fight on last Friday.² Gen Kilpatrick was wounded in driving the pickets in.

I am very tired and sleepy having been on duty to nights hand running but expect to get sleep to night. I can now still hear the rattle of musketry and the booming of canon in the distance showing that darkness does not stop the fight. Yesterday afternoon the fighting was pretty sharp³ but you will hear more about it than I can write at present. Our forces have drived the rebs ever time yet.

We are operatting on the right along the Oustenaula river.

1. In the spring of 1864 Grant went East to take over strategic direction of the war, becoming General in Chief of the Armies of the United States, and accompanied Meade's Army of the Potomac. General Sherman succeeded to the western command. The Union battle strategy for 1864 called for a general advance, the Army of the Potomac moving against Lee and Richmond and at the same time the three Armies under Sherman, the Army of the Ohio, the Army of the Tennessee and the Army of the Cumberland, were to move against Johnston and Atlanta.

Sherman's orders were to break up Johnston's army, inflict as much damage on the interior of the enemy's country and its war resources as possible.

The Army of the Cumberland moved on May 7, 1864, beginning one of the most intensive military campaigns of the war, the Atlanta campaign, which continued until Hood evacuated Atlanta on September 1, with Sherman's troops marching in the next day.

2. May 13, Combat near Resaca.

3. Battle of Resaca, May 14, 1864.

We had some fine sharp shooting yesterday and today. Our Regt has been very fortunate as we have onley had one man wounded and he slightly Although we have been under fire more than 50 times within 4 days.

I think that you will hear of a grand victory in a few days.

Love to all as I must close this time. I will give you the particulars another time.

Write soon.

Ed Cort

Resaca, Ga. May 21st, 1864

Dear Friends,

I recd two letters from you this week for which I was very glad. I have but few opportunities to write now. I wrote you one short letter since we left Ringgold. I never had better health in my life. There are quite a number of the boys unwell but none very bad. I think it is the warm weather and change of watter. I will give you a kind of Diary of our travels and doings since we left Ringgold.

On Friday the 6th we got orders to pack our Overcoats and extra baggage and send them back to Chattanooga to be stored. Started at 3 AM on the 7th from Ringgold. Crossed Taylors Ridge at Nick A Jack Trace. Drove in the reb pickets and followed them up until we got to a cross roads.⁴ waited for the 20th A C to come up. Saw Gen Hooker and a host of other Gen's. Went into camp at 3 PM 12 miles west of Dalton.

At sun up startted for a little town named Villinaw and took posseshion of the gap at that place and waited until 2 PM when the 15th & 16th A Cs came up and we went back and camped in the same place.

9th. Went back to Villinow and camped sending out strong pickets. Heard a dispatch read that Grant had whipped Lee. The 10th Wis Battery joined our Div are in Warren Co.

10th Co H Went on picket at noon were relieved as the Regt had moved toward the front. passed through Snake run Gap one of the best natural places for to fortify that I have seen but our forces got it with out much loss. The Enemy are in strong force 3 miles in our front. the 16th AC are fortifying the entrance to the gap so that if we should meet with a reverse we have a good place to fall back to.

11th Rained and blowed very hard all night. troops passing all night. at 3 AM were turned and moved back inside of the for-

4. Skirmish near Nickajack Gap, May 7, 1864.

tifications. lay in camp the rest of the day. Saw Germanas Knepper of Cheenies Battery and H Lamb. 12th Ordered out at Sunup to feel the enemy. The 92nd went out on the Dalton road and the 3rd Ky and 10th Ohio on the Resaca road. we skirmished for about 4 hours and drove the cavalry 3 miles when we came on Cleborns Div of Inft felt them some then went back to our old camp. we had onley one man wounded in the Regt of Co C. The 10th Ohio had 2 killed and several wounded. we got two rebs that we had wounded mortaly. I was on the skirmish line all the time and had several close shaves. Saw Tom McClimmens. The 20 Corps came up today.

13th There was a Gen forward movement to day⁵ Our Div Opened the ball. Gen Killpatrick was wounded before the pickets were fairly drove in. Col Murry took charge of the Div and Col Atkins of the Brig. the 92nd dismounted and took the front and drove in the reb skirmishers when we were ordered to halt. we kept up sharp shooting untill we were relieved when we went to our horses and started for Lois Ferry on the right of the Battle ground. found the enemy well fortified across the river did not molest them. Heard sharp artillery firing in the center and heavy skirmishing all day. we gained some ground. Camped near the line.

14th Drew 3 days rations and two of forage. My horse got sick and I had to take Tiltens. he got better by noon. Co's A & H went to the Newton ferry and done sharpshooting all day across the Ostonula river and picketed at night. Battle going on all day on our left.

15th At 9 AM the 3rd Ky and to guns of the Bat came down and we shelled the rebs away from the Ferry. At noon went to Calhoons Ferry and stayed there until evening. went into camp the same place. Just as we got to bed nicely the saddle call blowed and we were ordered to Calhons ferry double quick and stopped there until 3 AM when we went back to camp.

Started at 9 AM and marched 25 miles to escort Gen. Corse Chief of Shermans staff⁶ down to the 2nd Div. fed and started back at darck the 2nd Div comming back with us. Wilders boys were glad to see us. Traveled untill three oclock in the morning. Crossed the river and camped at Lois ferry and camped slept until after sunup. Lazed in our camp 17th until 3 PM when we moved forward. rained most of the day.

Started at 8 AM 18th and marched to Adairville by noon. Saw troops passing all day. camped near town. Started forward 19th at 8 AM and traveled by jerks from one road to another. arrived

5. Combat near Resaca, May 13, 1864, followed by the battle of Resaca, May 14 and 15.
6. John Murry Corse, Union general.

at Kingston at 4 PM. It is a very prettily situated town and has has been a hospital town as most every house had been a reb hospital.

20th Started back for Resaca passed through Kingston. Camped near Adairville. Started at sunup and arrived here at noon. what we came back for I cant tell. We are to leave to morrow but I do not know where we will go. I expect our Div will not have to do such heavy work as the 2nd Div has taken our place now. I wish Kilpat would get back soon as he is the best Cavalry officer in the U S. he has a flesh wound through the hip.

Everything hear works like clock work. there is no stragling at all for such a large army and evry one has plenty to eat. The cars run to Kingston now. the rebs had not got away two hours before our men began to build the bridge over the river. When we left Kingston our advance were 10 miles out of Kingston and following up the rebs as fast as posible and were onley about 40 miles from Atlanta then but the Inf are greatly fatigued then from hard work. I think every thing is in a very prosperous condidion in this Dept. I must close as it is getting late and I must close. love to all

Ed

Excuse bad writting and errors as it was written in haste and in confusion.

Adairsville, Ga. May 30, 1864

Dear Friends,

I thought I would write you a few lines this fine morning although I have no news to communicate. My health is very good at present. The general health of the Co has improved since last writing. Orderly Nettleton has been quite unwell but has been gaining the last few days.

I was on picket yesterday and got in at noon. We do not hear any reliable news from the front. I supose you get the news sooner than we do. There was a hard fight yesterday in which we were successful. I think there is no doubt but that we will have Atlanta this week if it is not ours now. We have got the **Serpent** pretty well strangled in this Dept now but he struggles very hard for to get out of our grasp.

We feel very much encouraged by the news we get from the army of the Potomac. I guess that Grant is rather much for Lee and his minions and will soon have some of them. There has been some very hard fighting but half of the fighting is not over there yet as it is very hard work to conquer such an army with such a commander as Lee and such a country to fight in as they have

where natural positions are so plenty and life appears to be thought so little of.

The rebs arround here appear very much discouraged and think they are about played out. Our horses are doing very well and improving very fast. the pasture is good and pretty plenty. This is a very fine country around here and there has been a great deal of grain planted but it is now distroyed. There is a strip of over 10 miles wide that both armies passed through in which very little has been left. The fences were taking by the rebs to build breast works to check the advance of our men as much as possible. They threw up breast work every mile or two.

Croff is comming back to the Co today. We are going to bunk togather again. I dont know as I have told you that Lt Bailey had resigned but I supose you know it before this. Lyon is here and sends best respects. Love to all Ed

Excuse Lazeyness

In Camp near Kingston, Ga. June 9, 1864

Dear Friends,

I recd your welcome letter of the 30th of May. I am getting your letters quite regular and I am very glad you write so often. My health is very good. the boys are generaly enjoying good health. We have been getting quite a suply of rain lately. It has rained every day or night since the 3d. On the 6th at noon Co H was ordered out on a scout after a gang of bushwhackers. We went out East 9 miles found where they had been an hour before but did not get sight of them. we got back to camp at dark.

Next morning were ordered to be ready to march at 11 AM. Started at that time and arrived at Kingston at 3 PM. Went into camp 1½ miles south west of the town near the Rome RR. I was detailed for picket. Guarded a Bridg over the Etowak river. I supose we will stopp here a short time. Our dismounted men were sent off somewhere yesterday to guard railroad I expect.

The weather has been very warm the last week. News is rather scarce. war news are still encouraging. the 17th A C has arrived here and reenforced Sherman. as to what he is doing we know nothing more about it than you. We get our mail more regular than we have ever done before.

We got papers of the 7th yesterday and generaly get Nashville papers 36 hours after they are printed and the Chattanooga paper 12 so you see we get the news about as soon as you. I rather think by paper accounts it is the General impression that Grant is doing all the work and the magnitude of the work Sherman has

done and is doing has been overlooked. We are fighting a brave and desparate army Commanded by an able Gen very little less than our own and in their own picked ground. We have drove them across two rivers and over several ranges of Mt's from behind strong natural fortifications made doubly so by art and he is once more at bay after being drove 100 miles. this is his last stand till we have gained the goal for which we started (Atlanta).

We are now over 250 miles from our regular bassis of suplyes. We are quitely waiting the developement of the Richmond Campaign for fear we drive this army on Grant. But the people know that the western army can take care of them selves while it takes Grant to take care of the Potomac army. They have fought well this campaign and are let alone by the Cabnit for the first time.

Love to all

Ed

Kingston, Ga. June 19th, 1864

Dear Friends,

It has been several days since I have writen to you so I concluded to dot you a few lines this morning. On the 11th Our Co and one Co of the 5th Ky went to Cass Station 7 miles south east of here and stayed until last Friday. We were scouting and guarding the R R and had a first rate time. We came in to get our pay. we were paid on Friday evening four months paid up till the first of May. I recd \$68.00. I sent \$40.00 home and kept the rest. I owed some \$8.00. I dont want to get out of money again. We sent the money to Parker's in Lane the same as before where you can get It. There will be some express on it I expect.

Crawford has come back to the Co. he and I bunk and mess together now. There has been a great deal of rain here lately which makes it somewhat disagreeable. It was raining most all last night but has stopped this morning.

There has been heavy cannonading in front for the last few days. what has been the result we dont know here. we see quite a number of wounded and prisoners going back on the cars. I see by this mornings papers that the rebs are reported to be evacuating Richmond⁷. if that is the case we will be very apt to recieve a call from them in this Dept and will be very apt to get ours selves into trouble but Grant and Sherman will out General them some way or the other.

Whealers command have been troubling us considerly late. they cut the RR near Calhoun. Our Div were after them for two

7. Richmond was not evacuated until April 2, 1865.

days while Co H were at Cass station. the rebs camped within 8 miles of where we were one night but did not trouble us. I hope we will go back again.

I am about out of Postage Stamps and wish you would send me some as they are hard to get here. There goes the cry I love to here. Fall in for your mail and I got a letter from you mailed on the 11th. **Mighty** glad to get it & Maggie speaks of Strawberries. Why: Strawberries are done here long time ago and Raspberries and Mullberries and Dewberries are ripe and while we were at Cass Station we had all we wanted of them also some Huckleberries. Blackberries will be ripe in about 10 days.

I want you to understand that Lt Bailey is a great blarney and did not tell any of my faults. I had calculated to finish up on this sheet but I will have to say a little about Selling.

Well you want my opinion about selling out the farm. The first question would be What business would we go in if we would sell. We are both green in business and prehaps might make a blunder and loose all we have. Then again it is a bad time to sell now because I think this war will soon be over. then there will be a financial crissis I am afraid and real estate will be the safest thing. if there is not land will be a better price in Ill than it ever was. Help will be cheaper as soon as the war closes and farming is about as independent a way of living when it is once got under way right as can be found. So I think it would be best to wait a little while and see the end of this rebellion.

If I am spared to get home I cant tell what I would like best. I think now that farming would suit me best as I lack education for any thing else and if I am spared to get home I will be too old to learn any thing more in the school line. If I get home you can make a strike out on a small scale and try your talents for some kind of businefs and if you would like it then you would have some experience and we could strike out safer. Mean time let the boys and Maggie get all the schooling possible. Write your mind hopes and fears and I will do the same.

Ed

Write often as it is my main comfort.

(Diary) June 24 In camp all day. There was a scare got up at 9 PM that the rebs were attacking our pickets. we saddled up double quick but it all blew over in a few minutes.

June 29 Day cloudy and sultry. In camp all day. Colonel Atkins made a speach tonight. he has resigned and is going home soon.

July 2 Recieved orders to march tomorrow morning.

July 3 Day warm. Started at 7 AM passed through Adairs-

ville at 11 AM and stopped to feed near the town. Camped at Calhoun before dark.

July 4 Started at 7 AM Co E going along. arrived at Resaca about 10 AM and went into camp near town close by the railroad.

July 6 The news came that there was a train burnt between here and Dalton yesterday evening. Went over the battle field this morning.

Resaca, Georgia, July 14th, 1864

Dear Friends,

I thought I would write you a few lines this morning. I am well and the rest of the boys are in the same fix. We just got in from a three days scout Yesterday noon. We were out South East of this after the **Railroad Raiders** and Bushwhackers. There was three different squads of one hundred each and we all took different roads. We gave them a big scare burnt two houses and took some half dozen prisoners.

I will give you an account of the scout so you can **kinder** understand the difficulties under which we labor in catching Bushwhackers. We left camp Sabbath evening at dark. We had a citezen for a guide. I had charge of the advance guard. We rode all night lost the right road several times. we went to the wrong ford of the Coosawatte and could not get our horses to go in the river so I off and striped to try how deep the water was and onley got about four feet from shore when I popped in over my head. I swam out and we had to back out. we found the right ford after a time.

about half an hour after daylight we came within one mile of the little village of Carters quarters. So as there was some Bushwhackers living in the town some 15 of us charged into the town on the run but found nothing but some very badly scared women. we hunted arround for a short time but found nothing. We then fed and got breakfast. we had riden for over 13 hours without rest. we stopped an hour and half then started on an got track of a squad of about 30 rebs and followed them arround most of the day. finealy about 4 PM our advance rin on them and captured two. we came up with the other two squads and camped for the night. next morning we started out again and scouted around but found nothing crossed the river and camped. next morning started for camp and got there at noon. The country is heavily wooded and mountainous and if they get sight of us they take to the woods and we soon loose sight of them.

I have had no letter from you for about two weeks. I have been very uneasy about Mother as I have never heard a word from

her since she left home. I am looking for a letter every mail but none comes. The weather is very hot here now too hot for a white man to live in. I would not live in this climate for any thing. We get all our news by the papers so you get the same. we generally get the Chattanooga paper the same day of date. I have nothing worth writing so I will close.

Love to all

Ed

Resaca, Ga, July 21st, 1864

Dear Friends,

I recd your of the 9th yesterday morning and was glad of it as I had had none for some time before. I also recieved one from Ohio the day before stating that Mother was there and in good health and had been having a pleasant visit.

Mr. Lyon and I have just got back from a ride over the battle ground this morning. we were out about three hours. Every thing yet shows the marks the fighting that was done near this place. We were over the ground where Hooker's and Palmer's Corps done their hard charging. To give any thing like a discription would be almost imposible but If I could have a chance to talk to you I could prehaps tell you a few things about war just as it is. I know of no other way than to wait until this "Cruel war is over" before I can have the privilage.

I am very sorry that there is such poor prospects for a crop this year. I was in hopes the farmers of Ill would have a good crop this year when the prices were good and get out their difficulties or at least keep from getting in any deeper. I think that before six months the prices of goods and gold will be more reasonable. It is nothing but speculation that makes gold as it is. I think this season will close the hard fighting with big armies.

Grant has Lees army in a possition that they cannot well get out of and Sherman has Johnston in a tight fix but it takes time and caution to do it and do it in the right manner. I have no doubt that Sherman by making a grand assault could have taken Johnston before this time but the sacrifice would have been awful so that time at present saves life. We get newspaper news pretty regular and fresh now and know most of the common things out side of soldering but soldiers as a general loose more than they gain in the way of useful knowledge. The helth of the Co is good. I must close love to all

Ed

(Diary) July 21 Went to town in the evening to welcome Gen Killpatrick back. he arrived at 9 PM.

July 22 Went to the country to get milk and graize horses.

July 24 In camp all day. Recieved orders to move tomorrow.

July 25 Started at six AM and arrived at Calhoun at 10 AM went into camp.

July 26 Detailed for picket. Was on the post at the mill on the Oostchcalogh river.

Camp in the field Aug. 7th/64

Dear Friends,

I have not had a chance to write for several days but I will improve this oppertunity and write this morning. The last letter that I have recieved from home bears the date of July 9th with postage stamps in it.

We left Calhoun on the 2nd at day light very unexpectedly and marched to Cartersville 35 miles that day. next day started at 9 AM and onley went 10 miles camping near Altoona stasjon. Next day the 4th we marched 25 miles and camped near the river (Chatahoochee) some 12 miles West of Atlanta. We stopped until noon the next day when we started back. we had onley gone some two miles when the 92nd were ordered to go in to camp. The rest of the Div went 4 miles farther. So we ar **to the front** again.⁸ we are scouting and picketing. Scouts caught six yesterday.

We can hear the fighting around Atlanta very plain. there was a heavy fight yesterday. we could hear the boom of the cannon and the roar of musketry very distinctly.

I suppose you have heard somthing of the raid of the 1st Div Cavalry down to Macon⁹. there are a great many rumors concerning it but as yet nothing very reliable. There is no doubt but that they lost very heavy on account of bad management. There was three Regts of this (3rd) Div along 2nd Ky 5 Iowa. 8th Ind. Killpatrick will be apt to try his hand soon. he is the **Prince of Raiders**. I would sooner go under him on a raid than any other man that I know of.

I suppose we are here to watch the right flank and will have some work to do. We are having Green corn now to eat which makes some variety.

I hope I will get a letter to day as it is a long time without any news from home. I had intended to write a political letter to answer the questions in your last but our moving knocked it in the head. I will merely say that Old Abe is the man I will go for in

8. Killpatrick's cavalry division, which had been guarding communications to the rear, was ordered to protect Sherman's right flank, relieving McCook's division.

9. Stoneman's raid. First objective of the raid was to destory the railroad and Stoneman was also granted permission to raid Macon in an attempt to liberate Union prisoners at Andersonville. Against orders he divided his forces, was cut off and captured.

preference to any other that is in the field as yet or that I think that will be in.

The Baltimore platform is the only true union one before the people as yet. There has been some things about the present administration that do not quite suite me but prehaps they were for the best in the end. But now is the time for all Union men to stand together and do their duty. I have not room to answer the other questions nor the oppertunity to post my self so as to be able to do it correctly. Time will solve the difficulties. I must close as it is about time to to church. love to all

Ed

I want to know all about the Eastern friends.

CHAPTER XIII
THE GRANDEST THING I EVER SAW — KILPATRICK'S
RAID AROUND ATLANTA

Camp near Sand Town, Ga.
Aug. 24, 1864

Dear Friends,

I find that this has been the longest interval between my letters that has happened since I have been in the service. The reasons are that the R R was cut for a few days and I would not write until every thing was all right again and before that time we were ordered off on a five days Raid and Just got back yesterday evening.

I have got considerable to write in this letter if I pretend to give any account on our Expedition. I recd two letters yesterday one from Ohio and the other from R. B. Marshal. Just before we started out our mail for two days and the Post Master was captured so I expect I lost a letter from home.

On Monday the 15th¹ we went down oppost Sand Town and laid over pontoon across the Chatahoochee river crossed over and moved out to Campbelltown station on the Montgomery RR 12 miles from Atlanta and tore up the R Road move back and camped within three miles of the place for the night. in the morning we found we had done just what we wanted stired up a Hornets nest. We moved back five miles and took another road and went still nearer Atlanta and

1. Skirmishes, Sandtown and Fairburn.

skirmished some little. we went back to camp in the after noon and camped near Sand town on the north side of the river.

(Diary) [August 15 Burnt the station at Campbellstown. Came back and camped some 3 miles from the town. did not unsaddle.

August 16. Started at 6 AM on the back track. Turned off to the right and went toward Atlanta until we came to fortifications. The 1st Brig skirmished some. We came back at noon and got to the river at 2 PM. The rebs followed us. We found it fortified at the river.

August 17 Day very warm. Arranged the camp ground this morning and set up tents.]

On the 18th at Noon we recd orders to be ready by 6 PM to go on a Raid² leaving every thing bhind except five days rations and 100 rounds of amunition. Or as Gen Kilpatrick termed it a *deliberate attack* on the enemies rear. The expidition Consisted of the 3rd Cav Div and two Brigs of the 2nd Div (Minties and Longs) about 4,000 in all and 8 pieces of Artillery Gen Kilpatrick commanding.

The 92nd had the advance. the first night we met the enemies pickets within one mile of camp but no very heavy force. we drove what there was some 15 miles to the R Road by day break tore up the track some, then struck out for the Macon R R. had not got more than three miles when there was a Brig pitched into our rear and cut one Regt in two but Minty soon drove them off. we moved off again Minty in the advance this time. he struck the Macon road about noon on the 19th and drove quite a number of rebs out of Jonesboro. We burned most of the publick building and burnt the ties. the whole command were in the town by 9 PM. there was some sharp fight about 10 at night the rebs charged us but were drove back³. One man in Co K was killed. we lay in line behind rail piles all night.

at three we moved out on the East side of the road and went five miles. we stopped to feed for the first time. had scarcely done when the rebs were pitching into our rear. we skirmished a while then moved south for three miles then turned North for the RR again. the advance, Minties Brig, were attacked on the left flank both by artillery inftry and cavalry. four of our guns unlimbered within 20 rods of theirs and for about half a hour there was some fighting.⁴

2. Kilpatrick's raid around Atlanta, August 18-22, 1864. Because of the period of time involved, diary entries that add information have been inserted into the main body of the letter. The object of Kilpatrick's raid, ordered by Sherman, was to break up the Macon Railroad, forcing Hood to withdraw from Atlanta. He returned on the 22 of August, having destroyed about a mile and a half of track at Jonesborough but on the 23rd trains were observed coming into Atlanta from the South again and the raid was not considered successful.

3. Combat, Jonesborough, August 19.

4. Combat, Lovejoy Station, August 20.

the rebs charged took one of our guns that had had the trail shot off but the 3d Ohio charged and took it back. Our Regt did not get into the fight but we were dissmounted and doubled quicked arround untill we were about rundown. the rebs were drove back from our front but they were pitching into our rear by this time stronger than ever. We had a pretty good position in some large open fields over a mile suare that were higher than any of the other ground arround. the rebs had six guns in our rear and about the same number in front.

The 92nd were ordered to mount double quick as was all the rest of the Command that were dismounted. The skirmishers that were in front came runing back and mounted. pretty soon we got the word that we were sourounded by superier numbers of inft and Cvy and were to cut our way out. the 92nd were to take the rear of the artillery and the Cavalry the front. by this time the Rebs had rind one gun up very near the top of the hill and began to open on us. the 4 reg's led the charge. on the right Col Murry led the 3d and 5th Ky and charged the battery Captured three pieces. we brought off one but could not take the other two.

The 92nd followed in rear of the artillery. by the time we got to the foot of the hill the rebles Inft on the right that were in heavy timber had recovered and charged the road. the left of our Regt wheeled into line and gave them several volleys from our spencers which sent them back running. Strange to say although they poured in two volleys into our regt not a man was disabled or a horse struck. they were not 20 yds from us when we wheeled and fired on them. One ball passed through the bundle on the front of my saddle within three inches of me. We got out without lossing many men got all our artillery and one reb gun. the 4th Regs lost the most coming out. we captured one Brig flag and the Battle flag of the 3d Texas cavalry.

(Diary) [August 20 We moved on to near Lovejoy and the rebs sourounded us and we had to cut our way through them. It was the grandest thing I ever saw. we got through very well and with small loss. We then took the direction of Covington. We went to the peach tree mills.]

We then struck out for the Augusta R Road East of Atlanta. the 92nd had the advance. 150 of us were sent a head to take a bridge across the South water river which we got by 10 PM by hard riding as there was a squad of rebs ahead of us to burn it but we run them off the track and got a head. We got to the rail road at dark on Sunday the 21st and camped laying in line of battle all night.

(Diary) [August 21 Day Rainy. Left Peach tree shoals Mills at

7 AM and struck out for the Augusta RR after cross the South water. We travld fast all day. A few bush whackers fired into us but we were not troubled much. Camped for the night at Latonia Station on the Augusta RR. The 92nd was on picket.

August 22 Left Latonia Station at 6 AM passed near Stone Mountain. Arrived at Dacatur at noon and passed on. Reached our lines near Atlanta at dark.]

Next day we passed through Decatir and got in our lines in the afternoon and camped within three miles of Atlanta. Yesterday we came back to our old camp here. a great many horses gave out. we only lost two out of our Co. Our Regt lost one man killed three wounded and several missing.⁵ I did not get five hours sleep on the whole march. Horses and men wer pretty well worn out. We made a complete circle of the reb strong hold at one time only ten miles in the rear of Atlanta. It is considered the most successful expidition that has been made in this Dept.

I will leave off this very imperfect account and wait untill I see the news paper stories. If you get any general account of it in any paper I would like you to sent it to me. The report is that we are to leave here in three days in what direction is uncertain.

The boys are all well. Croff is in the tent writing beside me. I will close for this time. I have made a very poor out in writing this letter. If you want to any thing about any particular point or person write and I will tell you. Love to all

Ed

Camp Creek, Ga. Sept 11/64

Dear Friends,

I embrace the first spare time that I have since I came to this camp to write. My health is very good. the rest of the boys that were not hurt are well excepting Mr. Lyon. He has very sore Eyes but is well other wise.

I will try to give you a short account of our doings since last writing. Started at 1 AM on the 27th and move out 5 miles toward the RR and stopped until 8 AM then moved 3 miles farther and camped. The right wing of the army were moving with us⁶ while the left fell back to the Chattahoochee river. On the 28th we moved out at 7 AM and skirmished some then camped being relieved by the 15 AC. 29th We done nothing. the 16th AC tore some 7 miles of the East point and Montgomery RR up.

30th The 15, 16 & 17 A C's all moved for the Macon road. Our

5. Total Union loss listed as 400 wounded, killed and missing. Dyer.

6. Beginning of flank movement on Jonesborough.

Div on the right and front at 10 AM came up with the Rebs skirmished some found them fortified some. The 92nd were ordered forward to drive them out of their works.⁷ the Regt was divided into two Battallions. the Right wing was the 1st Bat. and the left the 2nd. The first were ordered to suport the 2nd while they charged on horse back (Co H is in the 2nd Bat). The rebs were in an open field some 80 rods from the timber. Co H got throug the fence first and recieved the fire of almost the entire reble line, a Brigade of Infantry. Squire Diamond was killed instantly Leut Dawson wounded badly in the hand S. W. Burton in the knee. Several horses were wounded also. In a short time we succeeded in driving them from their works.

After their infantry had left they opened on us with a battery and threw shells right among us but no person was hurt although several were knocked down. Our Infantry then took the advance for several miles. About 3 PM we were ordered in the advance again. Co H were the advance guard. we found the road barricaded so we had to dismount and fight on foot. We drove them for about one mile when they came to a stand behind some rail works they had made.

we had an open field 300 yds wide to cross. in the center stood a log cabin. there was onley 18 of us. the rest of the Co were leading our horses. We charged across the field. When in the center they gave us a volley but did not hit any one. we got to the house and from behind it we soon made them leave although there was not less than 75 rebs (The rear guard).

Co A then came to our suport and we chased them 2 miles farther to the flint river when the whole Regt dismounted and we charged the bridge and took it before they coud destroy it.⁸ Gen Howard complimented us for our work for if they had destroyed the bridge it would have delayed us one day. The 16th AC passed over before dark then our div.

Our Regt were ordere to move to the right and attack Jonesboro so as to draw the enemy off the RR. We did so. it was very dark when we found rebs ahead. We dismounted and moved up in line. the rebs opened on us and we returned the fire advancing all the time. we soon found that we were charging greatly superior numbers and they in strong works. we moved up within less than 100 yds of their works when they got a cross fire on us and the 1st Bat had to fall back a little as they were more exposed than the 2nd.

We (2nd) held our ground and for over 30 minutes we had

7. Skirmish, near Jonesborough.

8. Action, Flint River Station, August 30, 1864.

one of the hardest fight I ever seen. we lay flat down and fired at the flash of the rebs guns moving forward slowly most of the time so that they would fire over us. finealy we run out of amunition and our fire slackened and the rebs were prepareing to charge us but we opened on them again with what little was left and soon put them out of that notion.

There was no suport came to us and we had no orders so we lay still waiting. finealy the orders came to fall back cautiously for if they had knowen they could have mowed us while we were standing up. we got out at last with onley one man wounded in Co H Harvey Schemehorn in leg. there was 2 men killed and some 15 wounded in the Regt. how we escaped as well as we did I cant tell as we after ward found out we had charged a Division of Reble Infantry strongly entrenched. we were in such a position that the rest of the Div could not suport us.

Gen Howard complimented the 92nd again as we had drawn the whole reb force to where we were fighting thinking that all our forces were attacking. While we were drawing their attention the 16 and 15 AC's took position across the RR without opposition.

Persons that heard the fight told me that from the fireing they thought there was at least 8 or 10,000 men engaged. The 92nd went back to the river and camped for the night. Co H fired 65 rounds to the man at one time. my gun was so hot that I could not touch the barrel with out burning.

I will give you an account of the rest of the expedition in the next letter as this is as much as one envelope will hold. I recieved one letter from Maggie dated Aug 27th also two papers Journal & Republican. I heard from our wounded yestirday evening. they are doing wel except Lt Dawson. his blood is very bad and he has a very sore hand but you need not let his folks know that he is not doing well. We are 9 miles from Atlanta on the right of the army and expect to rest for a while.

Write often. I will write soon again if we stay here. I must go to church.

love to all

Ed

Camp Creek, Ga. Sept 15th, 1864

Dear Friends,

I recieved yours of the 7th yesterday and it was very welcome. I have never recieved that letter of Joes about the Eastern friends and would like you to repete it as it and the P.M. are in Dixie.

I left off in my last letter about Our expedition on the night of

the 30th of Augs and will begin my story again accordingly. On the morning of the 31st we drew more amunition and moved down the river some 3 miles to another bridge. the 92nd were in the rear for once. The 1st & 2nd Brigs moved down to the River some of them crossing over.

When the rebs found us there they sent the *cracked* Div. (Clebourne's) in their army to drive us back. they had 22 Stand of colors so must have had 22 Regt. after an hours hard fighting our men run out of amunition and had to fall back. They had 10 cannon and we onley had two in position but they could not drive our boys until ther amunition failed. then they came back in considerable confusion when the 92nd were ordered to dismt and move forward double quick and check the rebs.⁹

Our Brig commander Col Murry said if any Regt in the service could do it the 92nd could. we took possition in the edge of a heavy piece of timber with a rail fence in front of us and a large open field for the Rebs to cross before they could get to us. we had scarcely formed when their line began to show it self stretching as far as we could see in each direction and out flanking us far on both sides. we stretched our line as long as we could and began to skirmish with them. when ever they would show themselves we would give them a volley and they would seek the cover of the woods again. we skirmished for an hour and onley got two men wounded in the Regt when the rebs withdrew. Our div then moved back a couple of miles. Co H left on picket along with several other companys.

Next morning Sept 1st The pickets moved down to the creek and Co H crossed but no rebs bothered us. we stayed on picket until about noon when we were relieved. we went back and built breast works. Sherman ordered us to hold our position at all hassards until 8 PM which we did as he was driving them on the other side of the river and he did not want them to cross. At 4 PM the 17 A C relieved us and we moved back 1 mile and camped for the night.

Moved out at 8 AM the 92nd in the advance. met a few rebs but did not have much fighting until we struck the river some six miles in the advance of our army and in the rear of the main reb lines. the Bridge over the river was destroyed. the 92nd forded it the small horses having to swim. it was narrow. The pioneers then built a bridge.

I was sent with a squad of 10 men of Co H along with Co I on a

9. Kilpatrick had repulsed two Confederate attacks but was then forced back across Anthony's bridge. The 92nd Ill. Mounted Infantry distinguished itself in covering Kilpatrick's withdrawal. Battle of Jonesborough, August 31-September 1, 1864.

road bearing to the right. Co I picketed the main road and I was sent on a by road. We stopped for about an hour when I was reenforced by six men of Co E and ordered to scout around and see what we could find. had gone about I mile when a man come up on the run reporting that the rebs had pitched in to our men at the Bridge and ordering us back full speed for fear that we might be cut off. we went back a kiting and found our Regt skirmishing briskly with a Brig of Rebs. they had almost cut us off. they got six guns in position and began shelling us. we onley had 4 guns and no good position. for them there was timber alonge the edge of the river then back was an open field. they drove the rest of the Div back behind the hill a mile away but the 92nd had sent back their horses and made arrangements to hold the bridge.¹⁰

we had two cos over the river while the rest of us had built rail piles and were ready for any thing they had to offer. their shells flew over us as they could not see us very often. they charged the two companys that were over the river three times but could not drive them even though they had 10 to one by that time and they have got to know the crack of a spencer and the whiz of a spencer ball. Pretty soon two of our Rodmens got in position where they could have a range of their guns and soon dismounted one of theirs when the rest withdrew to safer quarters. Our battalion were relieved at 9 PM and went back and got some grub. The rebs with drew in the night.

Next morning 8 of us went out with Capt Van Buskirk of Co E to reconnoiter some and found them on our right front. we run on a squad but they skedaddled and tried to draw us in a trap but we understand their tricks to well.

At 3 PM we recieved orders to report back that night to the rest of the army as we had gone far enough and were out of grub. the train crossed over. after dark we went back on the same side that the rebs were on and our advance drove their pickets off the road. Our Battalion was the rear guard and destroyed the bridge about 10 PM. We got into our Infantry lines and camped on the right of the 16 AC about 2 AM. had no place to tie our horses so I tied three together and tied the middle one to two rails then layed down on the rails and slept until morning.

When we woke in the morn found our selves on the side of a hill. Drew rations and was very glad as 3 days rations had lasted us six days and we had no hard Bread for two days but we got som

10. Skirmish, Glass Bridge, September 2, 1864.

sweet potatoes in place with a little fresh hog. Saw Henery Lamb. he was well. he is driving team now.

Monday Sept 5. Lay in camp all day. at 4 PM Recd orders to be ready to fall back at any time. started at 8 PM. Crossed flint River where we fought Clebourne after midnight and camped till morning. After breakfast we left our horses in charge of every 4th man and went to our old works near the river to lick any thing that was following us. Co H were detailed to destroy the bridge which we done effectualy. then were relieved and went back to the works and waited all day but no Jonneys came. Our Bat. was on duty all night. Next morning a few showed themselves but a few shells sent them back. we then pulled up and moved to the other RR and camped for the night. On the 8 we came to this camp and are here yet and have a great deal of duty to do.

I have given you a very imperfect account of our movements. you will not see much in the papers about us as we have no reporter with the Div. Lt Dawson is not doing well. the doctor has not much hopes of him. he keeps so low spirited. the other boys are doing well. One of the boys in the Co, C. E. Thayer had a bleeding of the lungs day before yesterday.

Capt Nelson got back to the Co on the 9th. Lt Nettleton had command of the co. after Dawson was wounded. Mr. Lyon's eyes have been very sore but are improveing now. he could not see scarcely any for a few days. I Recd the papers with the letter and was very glad to get them as I wanted to see the proceedings of the Chicago convention. I think that any man that can endorse those resolutions had better come down here and put on the Gray uniform. To talk of an Armistice when the rebs will not accept any terms but a seperation and Recognition is absurd. Then their *state rights* Resolutions destroy all principles of a union states. if one state can do as it pleases without any refference to the others how is a union to be preserved. The Convention done worse than I thought they wood. But I will drop the subject for this time.

I would like you would send me some needels and Pattent thread also some stamps as I got most all I had spoiled on the Raid. I will close for this time.

Love to all Ed
Write soon.

Camp Creek, Ga, Sept 22, 1864

Dear Friends,

I thought I would write you a few lines today letting you know our condition and wellfare. My health is very good. the rest are

about as usual. Leut Dawson died yesterday in the hospital at Atlanta. We had given up all hopes of him for several days before he died.

Captain Nelson started for home on a leave of absence this morning and I suppose you will have the privilage of seeing his *Captaincy*. His health is very poor. I want you to be sure and say nothing against any of the Bowleses in his hearing as he thinks that the sun never shown on such a person as Croff (as the old saying is "Birds of a feather"—) I dont know the reason I can never like Capt and I dont think he thinks much of me. Although he has made me Orderly jumping me over two other Sergets. Dont leave my letters lay arround for people to read. Be very friendly to the Capt as it will have a good effect. Croff and I are the best of friends. he uses me well.

We have been short of rations for sometime. it is the fault of the Commissary of the Div I think. Gen Kill— turned him out and we have another and I hope we will fare better in future. I never knew what it was to be hungry since I came into the service until on the last expidition. which is more than most soldiers can say that have seen as much service as I have. I always look out for rations and when Government dont furnish enough I buy before every thing is gone.

There was quite a scare got up night before last. Our spyes reported that we were to be attacked at day light yesterday morning by the main reb army so at 2 in the morning we got up and made ready to give them a good reception and had every thing packed up to fall back in case they were too strong for us but they did not come. We picket very strong and cannot be surprised. The 2nd Cvy Div moved out to Sand Town to protect our right flank as it was some what exposed. The rebs have only two Brigs of Cavalry in our immediate front and the 92nd has fought both of them alone and they could not drive us so there is no danger of their Cav interfering with us. I have been looking for a letter for a couple of days from you and I hope I will not have to look long. Write often as you have no idea of the good it does to get letters from home here in the army. I have no news.

love to all Ed

Tell Keoughs to write if they go to Iowa and I will answer.

CHAPTER XIV

GETTING FAT ON HIGH LIVING

(Diary) September 30 Day Cloudy. Sent in monthly return also quarterly return. Six men on a scout. Recieved orders at 8 PM to be ready to move at day break tomorrow. Had 36 Guns in Co. two left on picket making 38 in all, 5 Sergts 5 Corporels leaving 28 men.

October 1 Day very warm. Started at 4 AM. Packed up and loaded at midnight. Moved to Sweet water river where we found the rebs. Built a bridge then went into camp for the night.

October 2 Finished the Bridge and the 5 Ky crossed over and drove in the pickets. The rest of the Brig crossed over at noon and drove them 2 miles when we came back and moved toward Mariatta. The Rebs followed us back and fired at our train. Camped 2 miles East of the Bridge.

October 3 Day very rainy. Left camp at 8 AM and moved up to Noyes Creek. Crossed and built a Bridge. The 92nd Had the advance. We had 7 killed, 3 mortaly and one severely wounded in the Regt.¹ We came back and camped on the East side of the creek. Two men sick. 36 for duty.

October 4 Day rainy. Moved toward Marietta. Camped within 1 mile of the town. 38 Enlisted men with Co today.

October 5 Day fine but cloudy. Moved out toward the west 2 miles. found that Rosses Brig had passed and that the Inft were in front. Moved out toward the left and connected with the 14 AC

1. October 2 and 3, 1864, Skirmishes, Sweetwater and Noyes Creek near Powder Springs, Georgia.

and camped. the Rebs picketed close to us. 1 Corp and 5 men for picket. Whitley and Mino went back to the train.

October 6 Day rainy. Did not move today. W. H. Clayton and Wm. N. Irvine came up this afternoon. Making 38 Guns in Company. One Sergeant and two men for picket. Drew $\frac{1}{4}$ Rations for Horses.

October 7 Day clear and warm. Started at 8 AM on a reconnoissance leaving all led horses. Passed through Powder Springs met the rebs near there and skirmish with them. at noon the 3rd Brig took the lead. The 3d Ind and 5th Ky charged them across Sweet water river. Camped at dark, at 8 had orders to start at 10 but did not leave until 3 AM 17 men on picket.

October 8 Day clear and cool. Started at 3 AM and marched 10 miles then fed and got Breakfast. then went near our old camp and camped with orders to prepare for an active campaign.

October 9 Clear and quite cool. Preparing to march. drew rations and fixed as best we could to marching. No blacksmith. A. Herick sent back to Hospital. Five Sergets 6 Corps & 26 men with Company. Started at 11 AM. Moved west toward Van Wert wher Cos C F & H were on the advance and on picket at night.

October 10 Day clear and cool. Started at 7 AM and moved briskly all day. Fighting in the advance. The 3d Ky made a saber charge and drove them out of town. We lay in the Baracades all night. 37 Enlisted men and one Commis. officer in Company.

October 11 Day clear. Some skermishing in the morning. Co H built baracades all morning. about noon our men advanced and found the rebs gone. Went in to camp at 3 PM close to town. Got plenty of forage.

October 12 Day clear. Saddled at 9 AM as there was some skirmishing on picket line. Moved out toward Rome at 1 PM. Skirmished some. Camped 11 miles from Rome 4 Companys on Picket. A. B. Seclar and J. Lee Sick. John Farnhams horse abandoned with all horse equipments. 35 men for duty.

October 13 Day very pleasant. Saddled at sunup and moved out in one hour after found the Reb pickets on the road. Halted at noon and fed. Sent back poor horses. Sergt Lee and seven men went back with horses. Went out some six miles but found no Rebs. Connected with the Inft and went near the place where we got dinner and camped.

Camp near Rome, Ga. Oct. 14, 64

Dear Friends,

I have not had any opportunity to write for a time and am uncertain wheather you will get this or not. I have had no letter for one month on account of our moving arround I suppose and of the R Road being cut several times. I am enjoying excelent health and the rest of the boys are the same. we are pretty hard worked but we have got used to that.

We left Camp Crook near Atlanta on the 1st of this month and have been fighting the rear of Hoods army almost every day². we got into our Inft lines yesterday for the first time. On the 9th Our Brig drove 3 Brig's of Reb cavalry out of Vanwert and held the place.³ We have onley five Regts and a piece of a one in our Div and one of them the 10th Ohio is worth nothing as they wont fight and none of the Regts number 300 men but Killpatricks Cavalry do all the work any how.

On the 3rd the 92nd had 7 men killed and 3 wounded. 4 Companys drove one Brig out of rail Baracades. Co H have had no losses yet on this move. Hood says he is going to the Ohio River. if he does he will never get back. we are getting nearer our supplys and so it is better for us. we can bring more men against him in Tenn than Ga. he will not fight us onley when we corner him. Sherman says he is going just where he wants him.

Report says that the Rebs hold Resaca. we have just recieved orders to move in a hour I expect that way. Shermans Hd Qtrs are in Kingston 15 miles from Rome. Our horses are all pretty near played and unless we stop for a few days we will soon all be dismounted. My horse is all right yet except for shoeing but he needs that badly.

I must close this as it is time I was getting ready. I have considerable to do before we go. You must excuse this as it is written in haste and on a blanket. Croff is not with us nor Lyon either.

Love to all Ed

(Diary) October 14 Day fine. Started at 10 AM and marched very Steady and fast. Camped by the Nuholly⁴ Creek 9 Miles from Kingston and 10 miles from Cartersville. Convalesents came back and went along.

October 15 Day fine. In Camp all day. Got plenty of fresh

2. Hood had evacuated Atlanta on September 1, 1864; was pursued to Lovejoy by Sherman who found the defenses there too strong and returned to Atlanta. Hood then moved north to attack Sherman's line of communication to Chattanooga.

3. October 9-10, Skirmishes near Van Wert.

4. Euharlee Creek.

Pork and Sweet Potatoes. Three men for 3 day Scout and 3 men for a short scout. Company unchanged.

October 16 Day pleasant. Rumors of moving at 12 M. Went to preaching at 9 AM. Recd Orders to move at 1 PM. March 10 miles to Burnt Hickory. some 20 Reb Scouts run in and Gobbled 1 man. Co H was sent back to run them off. they had tore up the Bridge. Corp. Irvine sick and rode in the Ambulance.

October 17 Day very fine. Left Camp at noon and went back on the same road that we came. Camped 2 miles East of Stilesburg. 37 men in Company.

October 18 Day pleasant. Lay in camp. Fourteen men detailed today. Whitely Came up also Lyon and Hill.

October 19 Day fine. Farnham & Steuben went back to Cartersville with the train. The rest of the Commd moved to Dallas the 92nd in the advance. some Bushwhackers fired into the column. The 92nd Arrived in Dallas after dark. the rest of the Comd camped on Punkinvine Creek 5 miles back. Cos I and H went on a Scout. we got back at 3 AM of the 20th.

October 20 Day clear and fine. Scouted arround all day and camped at Hunpherds Mills at 3 PM. Found plenty of forage for man and horse. Farnham and Steuben came back.

October 21 Day pleasant. 38 Enlisted men with Company. In camp all day. Captured 2 horses.

October 22 Day raw and cool. Started at 8 AM and marched until 9 at night. Camped 3 miles from Stilesburg. 5 men for picket and 4 for scout. One horse abandoned.

Camp near Stilesboro, Lloyd Co, Ga.

October 25th, 1864

Dear Friends,

I just heard that we will have a chance to send away letters once more. So I embrace the oppertunity and write.

We came here on the night of the 22nd and have stayed here since. The first stop we have made since we started (on the 1st of Oct). We are about 15 miles south of Rome and some 10 miles from Kingston. We have merely stopped to recruit our horses and get them shod. There is plenty of forage for both man and Beast. We live on fresh pork and Sweet potatoes. We are allowed to forage all we please in fact ordered to do so. Bushwhacker are plenty and were bold but we shot a couple of them and they are rather shy now. We are all enjoying good health and getting fat on our high living.

Killpatrick had five Brigs of Reb Cavalry to watch and he has done it well. he completely Outmanuevred them and made them believe that he had a large force while he onley had about Eleven hundred mounted men to opose them with so we had our hands full. We attacked them several times and drove them every time while they were afraid to tackel us. Our Brig done all the fighting. They had us compleetly sourounded at Van Wert and were afraid to attack. Sherman did not hear from us for 3 days and thought we were gobbled.

We have a splended battery with us. the Rebs were afraid to bring their artillery in position because ours could shell them out in a few minutes. But I will stop as I am blowing a little but I feel somewhat proud of the 92nd when Killpatrick says it takes more to stop us than any Regt he ever saw. When ever he finds the Rebs stubborn he calls for the 92nd as he knows if the rebs cant drive the Cavalry they cant drive the Riflemen as he calls us unless they out flank us. We have got the best name of any Mounted Regt in this Dept.

I Recieved two letters yesterday one from Maggie and Arthur and the other from Joe. think Reynolds Tp is used rather mean about her Quota. I recd Mags Pa. news. About ~~that~~ picture the reason I do not send one is I have no chance to get one taken. last summer while at Adairsville there was an Artist there but the pictures he took bore no resemblance to the person it was intended for. I will not have one unless it is a little like Ed and supose you would not want it Either. But I will get one as soon as I have an oppertunity to get a good one.

I would like you to send me a black hat a pair of suspenders and a towel. Send them soon if you pleas as I want a Hat badly. I Recd the Campaign documents and the stamps for which you have my thanks.

Write often as the mail is very irregular and I dont get all your letters. I will write as often as I can. Love to all
Ed

Marietta, Ga. Nov 1st, 1864

Dear Friends,

I wrote you last from near Stilesboro. We left there on the 26th and arrived here on the 28th of Oct. We are camped on the West side of town. I have not been to see the place yet. Mdm Rumor said when we first came that we were relieved from field duty for 3 months to recruit up but **now** says that we leave in a few days for some unnowen parts. Hope we will draw some new

horses. We have drawn some that the 5th Ky turned over but we still want some 300 good horses in the Regt. The 5th Ky has gone back to get new horses.

We have been very busy since coming in camp streightning up accounts etc and have a great deal to do yet. My health is very good and am heavier than I ever was before. I must have gained some 8 or ten pounds the last month although we have been doing the hardest kind of duty. Croff has recd his commission as 2nd Lieut and Nettelton as 1st. He (Croff) is not mustered yet but will be in a few days.

We have signed our pay rolls and expect to get pay in a few days. We are onley to get four month pay but have Six due us. I have over \$120 coming to me but will get but \$80 this time. I have had no letter from Ohio for a long time. I had one from Clay Minier but have no chance to answer yet but will in a few days. I owe R. B. Marshal one but have forgotten his address since he has returned home. I wish you would inform me if you know. If we move soon you will not get letters very often for a while at least.

I almost forgot to say that Capt Nelson has returned. he arrived on Saturday last and has improved in looks amazeingly. He wishes me to say to Joe that he thinks that if you dont sell Grand-mothers place before his time is out he wants the first chance to buy as he has taken a great fancy to it and the country arround in that vacinity.

Who are your \$1000 men that went from Reynolds Town. Has Simeon R. gone again. Think you were used rather rough about the draft this time. I am afraid you are all working to hard. take things easy and grow fat and lazy like me and you will make more in the long run. The boys must study well and learn as fast as they can and if I ever get back I hope they will have a better chance. Mag is old enough to know that a well cultivated mind is one of the best recmendations a young lady can have so what you read, read understandingly and be careful of what you read. it is not the quantity but the quality and manner that improves.

As it is after 10 I must close for this time.

Love to all and good night
Ed

Marietta, Georgia Nov 11, 1864

Dear Friends,

I have just heard that there will be a chance to send a letter away if it is ready soon so I hasten to write as it may be a long

time before I have any chance to send one away again. I am in my usual health. The Company are unusually well at present. I suppose because the weakley ones have been sent back to the rear.

We are all ready to march and the waggons are loaded so that we may move at any moment. There are four Corps of Infantry going in stead of three. The 14th 15th 17th & 20th all under Sherman. Killpatrick comds the Cavalry. We are to forage as much as we want off the Country. It is going to be one of the largest Expeditions of the kind that has ever started out and under one of the best Military commanders in the country and I suppose for bold daring movements he is superior to any other man in the country. I think we will make a pretty large hole through the Confederacy if nothing serious happens.

The orders have just come for inspection at 3 PM and it is after 2 now so I must close soon. I hope I will get another letter before we leave for it is about time for another to be arround. We are now in the 2nd Brig and you will please direct accordingly. as soon as we come to a halt I will notify you but you can writ as usual and I will get them some time.

I hear that the line of R Road between Chattanooga and Atlanta is to be destroyed when we leave. Thomas has some 65,000 men to attend to Mr. Hood while we are prospecting through the country. I will close.

Love to all
Ed

CHAPTER XV

KILL'S CAVALRY DONE IT ALL¹

Camp, 92nd Ills, Dec. 18, 1864
Georgia

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I have the privilage of again writing to you. We recd our mail night before last for the first time since leaving Marietta. I recd one letter from home dated Nov 10 also the Hat and other things safe and sound. they came just in good time as I was in great need of the articles. I also recd one from Ohio. My health is very good although I lost some 10 or 12 lbs on this trip. The health of the Co is good.

I will give you a list of the Loss of Co H through this expedition. John B. Doctor was wounded severely through the thigh on the 28

1. The cavalry did, indeed, do the greater share of the fighting during the march from Atlanta to the Sea. The two Army wings followed different routes to deceive the enemy as to the ultimate destination, Macon, Savannah or Augusta. In the lead, followed by the right wing under O. O. Howard, the cavalry moved toward Jonesboro and Lovejoy, crossed the Ocmulgee at Planters' Factory on November 19, then raided almost to Macon on the 20th.

The cavalry and both wings of the army converged at Milledgeville, then the state capital of Georgia, on the 23rd and Sherman sent Kilpatrick north to rescue Federal prisoners at Millen, about 100 miles away. Wheeler's division of rebel cavalry was between Milledgeville and Augusta. Moving rapidly, Kilpatrick did considerable skirmishing with Wheeler at Waynesboro. Wheeler's pursuit was finally checked in the engagement at Buckhead Creek and, after discovering that the prisoners of war had been removed from Millen, Kilpatrick returned to Louisville on the 29th where he joined the left wing. After a day's rest for the horses he undertook a series of skirmishes (December 1-8) that put Wheeler's cavalry on the defensive.

Kilpatrick's forces were then transferred to the south bank of the Ogeechee and ordered to open communications with the fleet. He felt the Fort (McAllister) and then went further down the coast to St. Catherine's Sound and made contact with a vessel belonging to the blockading fleet.

of Nov. Sergt S. T. Cooper, Corp Gifford and Irvine, A. F. Tilton Floyd Gay and Jacob Mires Missing supposed to be prisoners. They went out foraging and were run into the swamp. Hiram Hyde was with them and got back after wandering through the reb lines for two days.

We are now camped 20 miles south of Savannah on the south side of the Ogeechee river. We have got all RR communications cut off and the city pretty well besieged. the onley communication they have is across the Savannah river which is over 1 mile wide at the city. We have communication with the fleet and are now receiving suplyes. they come up the Ogeechee River.

I will not attempt to give you any account of our march in this letter but will write all the paticulars sometime this week when we get a little settled like. I have kept a diary of the events. We just got here in time as the Spencer amunition had about run out. The Infantry had no fighting to do. Kills Cavalry done it all. We had 3 hard fights and skirmishes with out number and as usual the 92nd had to bear the blunt of most of them but we came through with small loss. I dont know the exact number yet. There was an expidition started out yesterday consisting of 2 Div of Inft and over half of the Cavalry to destroy a R R Bridge on the Altamaha river. 6 Co's of the 92nd went. Co H did not go for a wonder. They have to go over 50 miles.

Sherman is going to take his time in captureing Savannah. The Rebs have over flowed the land betwene them and our Infantry which will make storming rather difficult. We have made a big hole throug Georgia I rather think as we lived almost entirely off the Country which was very rich and well suplyed with forage for man and beast.

I must close as the mail leaves soon and I want to send this in it. Write often as It will take longer to go through than formerly. Love to all and best respects to all enquireing friends. Ed

Direct Co H, 92nd Ill Mtd Inft, 2nd Brig, Killpatriks Cavalry, Viz Washington D.C.

P. S. Excuse haste. I recieved the money but did not stand in need of it. My paper has been wet and blots bad.

Camp near Savannah, Ga.
Dec 20th, 1864

Dear Friends,

I seat myself this morning for the purpose of giving you a detailed account of our march through Ga. My health is good and the rest of Co "H" are as usual.

To begin the Story we left Marietta on the 14th of Nov after destroying the R Road thoroughly. Crossed the Chatahoochie 9 miles below Atlanta and camped 4 miles South of A having marched 20 Miles. 15th Started at 8 AM. Met some few rebs. crossed the R R at East Point and camped within 4 miles of Jonesboro.

16th 1st Brig in front met the rebs near Lovejoy and the 1st Brig whipped Wheeler and captured two Guns that they got from Stoneman. Camped near Bear Creek Station. Co H on picket. Forage of all kinds plenty. 17th Marched 20 miles and camped after night away from water.

18th Moved Early toward Macon the advance Skirmishing. went into camp at noon but did not stop long. were ordered out again and marched until after night with orders to be ready to move at 1 AM tomorrow morning. marched 25 miles.

19th Day rainy. Started at 1 AM and crossed the Ocmulgee at Planters Mills. stoped at 10 AM for breakfast. passed through Hillsboro at noon in Juster Co and camped in Clinton in Jones Co after dark having Marched 35 miles. roads very slippery. are 12 mile from Macon.

20th The 92nd had the advance. found the rebs just out side of our lines. had a sharp skirmish² killed 5 rebs wounded 3 and got 4 prisoners. Co H was sent out on the left some 2 miles to cut the Macon and Savannah R Road. we cut the Telegraph and tore up some track. when we got back found the regt dismounted and skirmishing³ within 10 miles of M but it was Getting dark when we went back and the 92nd stood picket 4 miles from M—.

21st Rained all day. The rebs attacked us⁴ but we repulsed them with heavy loss while we onley lost one man wounded and two prisoners. were relieved at dark and went in to camp.

22nd While we were drawing the attention of the rebs the left wing (14 & 20 AC) were moveing on Milledgville. we moved toward Gordon the 15 AC falling in our rear. they attacked them but got whipped badley. The country was rough and covered with a heavy growth of Pitch Pine. camped near the Rail Road. 23rd Marched 4 miles and camped near Gordon the Junction of the Milledgeville RR.

24th Started at sunup and passed through Gordon in Wilkins Co. and passed throug Milledgeville at 4 PM. It is a very ordinary looking place for a Capital and the Capitol buildings are very poor for such a large and rich state. Crossed the Oconee river and drew

2. Skirmish, Walnut Creek, Sept. 20, 1864.

3. Skirmish, East Macon, Sept. 20, 1864.

4. Skirmish near Macon, Sept. 21, 1864.

five days rations then went 5 miles farther and did not camp until midnight. 25th Started at sunup and marched 32 miles and camped at Ogeechee Shouls in Glass Cock Co.

26th Moved at sunup. passed through Gibson the county town of Glass Cock Co. The Court house was about as large as No 4 school hous in R Tp and there was three dweling houses in town. Country levle and heavily timbered mostly with pitch pines. camped in Jeferson Co. marched 35 miles. Cos H & K on picket.

27th The Rebs attacked the 1st Brig 3 AM but wer repulsed after a sharp fight. the 92nd was rear guard. they pressed pretty hard but we checked them every time by a few volleys of spencers.⁵ no one hurt in our Regt. While the prisoners say we wounded and killed over 100 of them. We got to Waynesboro after dark and camped near the town.

28th Rebs pitched in at 2½ AM again but were repulsed.⁶ The 1st Brig in rear. they had some hard fighting and the 1st Brig lost considerable. We stopped in the afternoon near Buddsheads creek and fought them.⁷ they charged up nobley but when the artillery and spencers opened on them they went back with a howel. John B. Dockton of Co H was wounded. The rebs had a superior force and thought to take Killpatrick in before he got to Inft suport but he showed them he could whip them if he wanted to. he had orders not to fight onley on the defensive as Sherman did not want to get to many wounded men on his hands. we camped within 10 miles of Louisville, Jefferson Co where the Inft were. 92nd on picket.

29th Started at daybreak and struck the Infantry lines before noon when we went into camp all very tired. 30th In camp all day.

Dec 1st Moved out at 10 AM Baird's Div 14 AC with us. 1st Brig in front found the rebs within three miles of camp. had a sharp skirmish. Camped at dark. 2nd Moved at day light. The 92nd on the skirmish line drove the enemy steadily. had a little fight at Buddheads Creek. Camped near the creek.

3d Moved early and struck the rest of 14 AC at Thomas station on Milledge road. 92nd on picket skermished some in evening.⁸ at Midnight the rebs began shelling us and killed two men in Co A. We were laying behind rail barricades. their shells struck all around us but did not hurt any one in Co H.

4 Moved out on foot without any breakfast. The 10 Ohio in front 92nd next on foot. we marched some 3 miles when they drove

5. Skirmish near Waynesborough, Nov. 27, 1864.

6. Engagement, Waynesborough, Nov. 28, 1864.

7. Engagement, Buckhead Creek, Nov. 28, 1864.

8. Skirmish, Thomas' Station, Dec. 3, 1864.

the 10th back. they had a splendid position and well fortified. our battery shelled them. the 92nd were ordered to take the position and the cavalry to protect our flanks. we moved up through a slough and were well covered until we got within 200 yds of the works when they opened with Artillery and musketry but shot too high. we went at them with a yell and were over the Barrecades before all of the Jonneys were all out. we captured 50 and killed 28 behind the works. we followed them untill we were run down as we had our over coats on. we stopped to let the cavalry charge but as soon as the rebs found that the cavalry were comming they turned and drove them back when we lit into them and killed some 20 more. Our loss was 3 killed and several wounded.⁹ If the 92nd had been mounted after the first charge we would have captured several hundred of them. To tell the truth the cavalry are not worth much and espechaly the Ohio. The 92nd can whip more rebs than the 1st 9th & 10th Ohio all together. We camped at Jacksonsboro 16 miles of the Savannah river. In Burke Co.

5th Moved at daylight. Wheeler did not trouble us. Camped near Brier Creek. Cos H and 3 others of the 92nd on picket. The 92nd has to do most of the work for the 3rd Cav Division. 6th Moved at 8 AM. Country very poor. had some difficulty in obtaining forage. camped near sister's¹⁰ ferry.

7th 1st Brig went another road. Furgesons command pitched into our rear. the 9th Mic lost some men.¹¹ Sergt Cooper and 7 others cut off.

8th Moved at Daylight. orders not to fight for the 92nd unless hard pressed as spencer amunition was Getting low. Moved very slow the Infnt in our front. We stopped at noon and had to move out to check the rebs. were on the Skirmish line untill Midnight.¹² the rebs tried to shell us out but could not. at midnight moved on. 26 miles from Savannah in Effingham Co.

9th Moved in front of the Infnt untill we crossed Ebenezer creek. when Cos E & I & H were ordered to stop and destroy the bridge after all had crossed. we got it destroyed then unsaddled and rested until noon when we moved off toward the right. at 8 PM stopped and fed then moved 7 miles farther and camped. Country very swampy.

Dec 10th Moved at sunup and marched fast untill noon when we stopped and fed then moved 3 miles and camped on RR within 5

9. Engagement, Waynesborough and Brier Creek, Dec. 4, 1864.

10. Sister's Ferry, Georgia.

11. Skirmish, Buck Creek, Dec. 7, 1864.

12. Skirmish, Ebenezer Creek, Dec. 8, 1864

miles of Savannah. ¹³ Forage very scarce had to feed rice, that is before it was thrashed or hulled. The Infantry had drove the rebs in their holes and were feeling around to catch them. Are in a rice growing country fit for nothing else unless to raise Alligators. Rested the 11 & 12.

13th Moved at 9 AM and crossed the Ogeechee canal, a canal made for the purpose of getting the Rice and Alegators to Market as there is nothing but swamps and if you get off the causeway like road you are swamped for certain. We also crossed the Ogeechee river and camped 5 miles from it on the first dry ground we could get.

14th Moved 15 miles to a place called Midway and once more got something good for man and beast to Eat. Midway is an old Revolutionary town with several houses in it. In the cemetery which is the prettiest one I ever saw for the size are graves as old as 1759.

15th In camp at Midway. some of the boys went to the coast at St Catharines Sound and saw Ft Sunbury a Revolutionary fort. at 7 PM we were order to march. we went to within 5 miles of the bridge and camped. 16th Camped in this place which is some 3 miles from the Ogeechee bridge.

I dont believe you can read half of it. If you cant, burn it and I will tell you all about it in 8 months. My paper got wet and the Ink will not spread and I have forgot how to both write and Spell.

I was down to the warfe yesterday and saw 3 seagoing Boats, 2 steamers and one Schooner. They are unloading supleys as fast as posible. They also brought some 84 lbs Seige Guns and I hear some Shooting this morning and I supose they are planted and are sending compliments into Sav. I will close as I am getting tired.

Love to all

Ed

(Diary)

December 21 Day rainy. Went out forageing today, traveled 20 miles away from Camp. Got a few Potatoes. Got back just at dark. was in Liberty Co. The Rest of Regt came in. Savannah was evacuated today and our forces took possession capturing 900 prisoners 200 cannon 30,000 bales of cotton 100 Locomotives and Rolling stock in proportion.

December 25 Christmas In Camp. had very little to Eat. very poor dinner Niggars Beans and Rice Bread. Drew no rations today. Recieved orders to march in the morning at 7 AM.

13. Siege of Savannah, December 10-21, 1864.

December 26 Day Raining. Moved out at 7 AM. the roads were very bad as far as the bridge. we camped near the Savannah river 8 miles from the city. Went into regular camp. found plenty of boards. No Forage.

December 29 Day cool. Built a chimney and enlarged our tent. In Camp all Day. Wm. B Bailey Returned to Company for Duty.

December 30 Day fine. In Camp. No forage. No Rations.

December 31 Day pleasant. No Rations either for man or beast. Made out Monthly Return for Dec.

January 1 Day fine. In camp all day. No Rations until 3 PM. Ate dinner with the officers Mess. Rather dull New Years Day the third passed in the Service. This day brot many home recollections to my mind. I hope to spend next New Yers at Home.

Camp near Savannah, Ga. Jan. 8, 1865

Dear Friends,

It has been long than I had anticipated without writing. We went some 25 miles on the other side of the Ogeechee River to get something for our selves and horses to eat. we left here on the second and got back yesterday afternoon. We have had but very littel for either man or beast to eat since moving to this side of the River until we went out. now we have plenty of Sweet Potatoes for selves and corn for our horses.

We are going to move camp on Monday (tomorrow). I expect we will go to Liberty County as forage is plenty there. We will get plenty of Rations now as most of the Infantry have left Savannah. they saved rations so as to have plenty to send off with them. You will know more of their movements than we do as we are 7 miles from town and hear nothing but Rumors. This is a poor country for Cavalry to opperate in or we would have been in S. C. before this time. It is too Swampy.

I am in a very poor mood for writing today as I have no news and no ideas to draw on for material to write. I have been looking for a letter for some time but it does not come. we get very little mail now. I expect you dont write for fear that they will never get to Shermans lost army. Never stop writing because you dont know where we are. we will get them some time.

Mr. Lyon has just come in the tent. he is well onley his eyes are not right yet. he sends his best respects to you all. The weather is fine about like your April weather. some nights we have pretty sharp frosts. we can not stand the cold. If we go north next winter we will freeze. We have just 8 month yet to serve from the 4th of

this month. Our time ends on the 4th of Sept next. After that I will consider it an honor to be *drafted*. Well! I cant think of anything else to write.

I will give some Orders. *1st* I want you to write at least once a week. Will & Arthur has not writen to me for a longe time. I want to know how many Horses cows hogs calves colts and evry thing else you have. who Joe goes to see and who comes to see Mag. *2nd* As Joe has not got married yet I want him and Mag to wait until I get home now. *3rd* Burn this as soon as it comes to hand. If we were not going to move tomorrow I would burn it myself. We have got a good shanty here and I dont like to leave it and I think from the way I write I am not in a very good humor. I will close for this time.

Love to all

Ed

CHAPTER XVI

THE IRON HAND OF WAR¹

Camp Near Savannah, Ga.
January 16, 1865

Dear Friends,

We are still in our old camp. we did not move as we expected to do last week. I have recd no letter yet. we get but little mail matter as yet. My health is good as usual. Two or three of the boys have the Ague and Shake occasionally.

We have recieved orders to be ready for a Six weeks campaign in a few days. We will leave the latter part of this week or the first of next. Our destination is unknown to us but the direction is Northward I think Wilmington or Richmond perhaps both Via Augusta Charleston and all intermediate Points that need atten-

1. Sherman hoped to march through the Carolinas, living off the land and cutting the flow of supplies to Richmond and destroying the Southern lines of communication. Savannah was first strongly entrenched so it could be held by a small garrison and plans were made for a mid-January departure of the army but bad weather delayed movements until the first of February.

The Union army was to move in two wings, as in its march through Georgia, the first objective to be Columbia, S. C., then Fayetteville, N. C., and the final objective, near Goldsboro, the junction of two railroad lines running to the North Carolina coast. Both wings took a fairly direct route, the right leaving from Pocotaligo and the left wing from Hardeeville on the Savannah River. The cavalry, however, was assigned a less direct course, to threaten Charleston on their right and Augusta on their left.

Because of Charleston's location between two rivers, it could be held for some time by a small group as long as their supplies lasted so Sherman planned to by-pass it, expecting its evacuation as a result of his passage through the interior.

There was strong Northern feeling against Charleston and personal hatred for the state of South Carolina, as the hot bed of secession, and the army left a wide path of destruction. Foraging was necessary to feed the army and while rather strict rules were issued, they were not often enforced. Many foragers were unauthorized and the "bummers" plundered, looted and burned everything in their path.

Sherman reached Goldsboro on March 23, 1865, having marched his army 425 miles in 50 days. This feat is rated by many historians as a greater achievement than his more famous march through Georgia.

tions. Or we may drive them into their Dens as we did at Macon and pass on.

One thing certain S Carolina is about to feel the "Iron Hand of War" placed on her and it will be in no gentle manner. all Soldiers know that it was the birth place of Dark Treason and we will make it the death place of some Traitors. Wo! unto Charleston if it should come in our path for we will utterly destroy it. I would rather we would not have to march through N.C. as there are a great many union people in the state and the innocent will have to suffer with the guilty.

There has been some Change in the Rank of our Comdg officers and if the truth was onley knowen the 92nd done the most of it. Killpatrick is now a Major Gen, Atkins and Murry Brigs. So you see our Divs has gained three Stars. Killpatrick is a pretty good Gen but a perfect Black Guard and Hog of a man with no principles.

On the 12th we went to Savannah and were reviewed by Gen. Sherman and a host of other Gens. There was not Room to show off to very good advantage but we passed Muster very well. our Horses looked rather bad as they have not got over their starving entirely. Savannah is a common built city with a great old wooden houses in it. The streets are narrow but the beautiful live Oak shade trees help the appearance of the City. There is undoubtedly a strong Union sentiment prevailing. you can tell by the looks of the people. instead of the usual scowl you see smiles of welcome. I intend going to the city before we go if I can to get my Photograph taken.

We get the Savannah papers every morning with the latest news. I would like to get some letters before we go. as soon as we start we will not get any mail for a long time. dont stop writing for I want to get a good pile when we get through. I will close.

Love to all

Ed

Camp Near Savannah, Ga. Jan 20th, 65

Dear Friends,

I thought I would write you a few lines before the mail leaves for I suppose this will be the last chance for some time as we are to march for the Carolinas tomorrow morning at 7. I am glad we are leaving this country as it is very unhealthy even now and what will it be in the warm weather?

As to our destination I know nothing more of it than when I last wrote. I am in very good trim for the march. my health is good and I am well Mounted two very nessesaries things for the

march. I guess I forgot to tell you that my old horse Soddy that I captured in Tennessee Valley and rode over one year got the Thumps and played out on our last march near Waynesboro. I have got another one a Roan horse named Major. he is a very good one. I have been lucky in having good horses.

Mr. Lyon has gone back to the Hospital. he thought that his eyes would get well faster there than with the Regt. I dont know what Hospital he went to. he left day before yesterday. His eyes were no worse than they had been but it is a hard place for some to be with the command on the march.

It rained all day yesterday and is still raining today which will make the roads bad. We have heard the news of the capture of Ft. Fisher². Every thing our arms undertakes of late appears to be sucessful. **Secession** will soon play out at the rate we are winning this winter. If this campaign is as successful as our last we will make another big hole in the Critter and draw out a few groans from the dieing animal.

Co "H" will be rather small this march. We onley number some 30 Guns. We have 78 Enlisted men in the Co. 38 present with the Regt and 40 Absent. 15 of the Absent are sick. the Rest are absent on Detached duty. There are five men out of Co H Detailed as Orderlies at Brig. Hdqts. I have recieved no letter since coming to this camp yet. The mail dont come for some unknowen reason. I must close as the mail closes soon.

Love to all

Ed

I will write the first opportunity but it may be a long time prehaps two months.

Camp Near Savannah, G. Jan 26, 1865

Dear Friends,

I suposed when I wrote the last letter that before this we would have been far away from this place. But it began to rain on the 19th and rained for 5 days making the road impassable for wagon trains so our marching was put off untl further orders. I think that we will start in the morning (27) from what I hear.

The weather changed on the 24th and has been clear and cold ever since. today is the coldest day we have had this winter. the ground is frozen and the wind is blowing hard. We moved camp on Monday 2 miles nearer Savannah and have just got fixed up and a good Chimney built and every thing cozy and nice.

I recieved a letter from Cousin Ruth yesterday but have re-

2. Fort Fisher, N. C., captured by Federal forces under Gen. A. H. Terry, January 15, 1865, as part of the Carolina campaign, to give Sherman an evacuation base if his march through the Carolinas met with strong resistance.

cieved none from home yet since comming to this side of the River. hope I will get one tonight.

We are going to have very bad roads to travle on but we are use to it.

Love to all
Ed

Excuse shortness.

(Diary)

January 27, 1865 Day clear. 29 month today since we went to camp at Camp Fuller. Orders to march tomorrow morning. Re-cieved some papers and a letter from Home. also One letter from R. Marshall. H. Jackson sent to Dismounted Detch.

January 28 Day windy and cool. Started at 8 AM. 92nd in advance because we got out first. Crossed the Ogeechee canal. Camped 11 miles out of Savannah on account of comming up with the Inf. Marched 18 miles.

January 29 Day Coald. Started at 7½ AM and marched very slow. Marched about 16 M. Roads very bad. 20 Privats for duty. E Lewis sick. H. Hyde sick. 3 Corp 3 Sergts for duty. 30 Guns in Co.

January 30 Moved out at sunup and passed through Springfield, Co seat of Scriven County. Marched 14 miles and camped near the Ferry. (Sister's)

January 31 Day fair. In camp all day.

February 1 Day fine. In Camp all day. In the afternoon went to the Ferry. saw some boats and looked into South Carolina.

February 3 Day rainy. In Camp until noon when we got orders to move at 1 PM. did not cross the river until 4 PM. roads very bad. About 7 miles from the ferry struck high land. Got to camp at 10 PM. Walters found his horse. The first houses we saw in the Palmetto were on fire. Reports that Brandville is taken. 2 Div of the 20 Corp went early to renforce Sherman.

February 4 Day Clear. 15 M. Started at 10 AM Cos A, E & H in rear of train of 2nd Brig. Marched pretty steady. passed through a small villiage. Camped at dusk near Lawtonville. The 20 AC had a fight with Wheeler at this place yesterday. Country flat and swampy like Ga.

February 5 Day Good. Left Camp at 7 AM and marched 20 miles and camped near Allendale. Saw some of the 15 AC that came from Beaufort Country. more rolling and richer forage plenty for man and Beast. Orin Sturtevant detailed to forage for the Capt.

February 6 Day rainy. 14 M. Started at 7½ and got as far

as the Southatchit creek where there were some rebs.³ the 92nd were put in the advance co and had to wade the creek. Some got wet all over. all got thier feet wet. they run and we got to Barnwell at 3 PM and camped. it is a right smart town.

February 7 Day rainy. 10 M. Started at 8 AM and went to Blackville on the Aug & Chals RR tore up the track, drove the rebs out ahead of us. Camped in the houses. Co H camped in a waggon shop. burnt most of the town up. Co unchanged. 31 E men, 7 nonC and 21 Pri.

February 8 Day coald and windy. 12 M. I was sick and rode in the Ambulance for the first time. left Blackville at noon and marched 12 miles to Willstown on the RR toward Augusta. The 3d Brig had a sharp skirmish, killed 12 and took 25 prisoners West of town 2 miles.⁴

February 9 Day windy and coald. Moved out at 10 AM and went 9 miles to White Pond Station and camped. Rebs in our front all the time. 30 Miles East of Augusta. Water very scarce. Am still unwell and off duty. The place is called Winson Turn Out in place White Pond.

February 10 Day cool. Moved out at 10 AM and marched 9 miles to Pole Cat station. Cos G K F & H were on picket. rebs in Aiken 4 miles west. We drove in their pickets.

February 11 Day pleasent. Moved out at 7 AM. the Pickits as skirmishers met the rebs at Aiken 4 miles and Skermished. the 92nd were surrounded but we got out pretty well.⁵ The Regt lost 23 killed wounded and missing. 10 Wounded 6 Killed and 7 missing. Robert Reeves is missing out of Co H. We came back and camped in the station for the night in line of battle.

February 12 Day very windy. Lay in camp all day. Co behind the Baracades. Went out after forage got back at 10 AM. The Inft arrived here at noon. E. Lewis lost his mule.

February 13 Returned to duty today. Started at 10 AM and marched N East Some 18 miles to Ediston River and Camped for the night.

February 14. Day wet raining and freezing. Started at 2 in the night but did not get across the River until day light on account of high water. Rained most of the day. Camped near the North Edisto. Some Skirmishing in front. 17 M.

February 15 Day cloudy. 12 M. Started at 8 AM and marched

3. Skirmish near Barnwell, S. C., Feb. 6, 1865.

4. Skirmish, Williston, S. C., Feb. 8, 1865.

5. Action at Aiken, S. Carolina, February 11, 1865. Wheeler had learned of Kilpatrick's planned demonstration against Aiken and stationed a large body of cavalry in town. The 92nd Ill. Vol. led the advance brigade. Kilpatrick had anticipated no opposition and was in the front ranks. When Wheeler's men made a sudden charge, the Federals ran.

regular, crossed the River on a bridge. Went out after forage got flour and potatoes. Camped early. 7 Non Com for duty 20 Privates for duty 3 in Co on Daily duty, 2 Color Guard, 2 Teamsters. Rest on Detached duty. Water scarce.

February 16 Day fine. 10 M. Started at 8 AM and marched very slow. Stopped and waited for the Inft to pass for 2 hours then went to Lexington and camped on the West side of the town. Country more rolling and some Gnarly oaks in place of so much pine. T Brice left his horse. Drew 2 days Rations of Hd Bread.

February 17 Day very windy 20 M. Moved out very quick on hearing rumors of the enemy advansing. The town was all on fire and the woods also. we were smoked almost to death. Passed the 14 & 20 A.C. crossed the Congaree in the afternoon and marched 15 miles and camped on a high ridge near Lewis ferry. Country very rough. It was the Saluda river we crossed instead of the Congaree.

February 18 marched 15 M. Started at 8 AM and passed over a broken country with a red clay soil and plenty of little streams. The Co. got 4 horses. Camped near Herveys Ferry on Broad river.

February 19 Day fair. In Camp. Marched 10 M. Heard the chaplain preach from Hew 4th Chap and 1 & 2nd verse. 2 men Detailed for to go after Horses. 4 Cos on picket H, K G & F. Co H on the 1st Relief. Were relieved at 7 PM and marched until 11 at night. 22 men for duty 5 Dismtd. The Batery took 1 horse. Clayton and the rest got back. Got 1 horse for Co H.

February 20 Day clear and fine. Started at 4 AM and crossed the River (Broad) at day break. Marched 9 miles and camped at 11 AM to get breakfast. Started at 3 PM and marched 6 miles. Camped near Monticello, Fairfield County near Mt. Meekins (Country Broken) Passed the 3rd Div, 14 AC.

February 21 Day Good. 12 M. Started at 9 AM and marched to White Oak Station on the North & South RR and Camped. J. L. Lee & E Lewis sick.

February 22 Day Cloudy 10 M. Revielle at 4 AM. Started at 6, 92nd in advance. stoped at Blackstock and unsaddled for 2 hrs, saddled up and marched on another road toward the East. Camped at 5 PM. 3 miles East of RR. 17 Men for duty 6 Non-Com.

February 23 Day Rainny 20 M Started early and marched fast for a while. 4 Cos were Rear Guard. Camped near the River (Catawba) until 6 PM when we saddled and crossed the river on a Pontoon Bridge. roads awful. rode all night and onley went some 8 miles.

February 24 Day Rainny Camped at 8 AM and got some-

thing to eat. Co H for picket just got to Post when the command passed. Marched 5 miles. Cos K & H on Picket at the Douglas Church, also 2 Cos of the 10th Ohio. Rained all night. got very wet. slept very little. J Whiteley, J h Brown, W Brown, L. Mino, H. S. Millard returned to Co.

February 25 Day rainy. 5 Miles. Started at 9 AM and crossed a creek. Roads very Bad. arrived in the town of Lancaster, the county seat of Lancaster Co. at 2 PM and camped close to the town. The Boys got 40 head of horses and Mules.

February 26 Cleared off today. in Camp. Made a weekly report. 24 E men for duty, 5 unequipped, 34 Men present with Co. Went to preaching in the evening and heard the 10th Ohio Chaplain preach.

February 27 In Camp. Went out after forage 3 miles and got plenty of horse forage but no man forage. Walked over town. The place shows the effects of war. Appearance of Rain.

February 28 Day rainy. Left Lancaster at 2 PM and marched to Nelsons Church 6 miles. Forage scarce for man.

March 1 Day cloudy 1 Mile. Went out after forage. Regt moved twice today and camped 1 mile from Nelsons church. This is my 24th Birthday.

March 2 Day rainy. 22 M Started at 6 AM and marched steady. crossed two creeks. Roads bad. Struck a sandy road near Kleckneys XRoads and camped there at 3 PM. at 4 Co H were ordered out on a detail after Horses, went 4 Miles and camped in North Carolina in an old deserted log House in Anson County.

March 3 Day Rainny. 30 M. Started at 5 AM went 4 miles, stopped and got Breakfast. rode all day got very few Horses but plenty of provisions. Got to Camp at 4 PM. Camped near the line in N. C. in Anson County.

March 4 Day Cloudy. 12 Miles. Saddled up at 7 but did not go until afternoon when the enemy attacked us⁶. the 92nd were Rear Guard. We marched until 10 PM when we camped and built Baracades and Cordaroy. it was after 12 when we got to rest. Camped within 4 miles of Wadesboro.

March 5 Day fair. 16 Miles. Started out at 8 AM and marched 7 miles. Co H & F on picket 6 miles from Haileys ferry. Went down on a scout in the afternoon. The Command marched at 9½ PM. Got down to the river at 12 Midnight but did not Camp.

March 6 Day clear and fine. Drew 29 L. rounds of amunition. Lay from 12 midnight until 7 PM, most of the time with saddles

6. Skirmish, Phillips' Cross Roads, North Carolina, March 4, 1865.

on. Was sick all day. Crossed the Great Pedee river on pontoons at 9 PM and marched until midnight. Camped 8 miles from the Bridge. Henry Jackson back with the Company.

March 7 Day Fair. 10 Miles. Started at 7 AM and marched to Rockingham, Richmond Co N. C. and camped at Noon on the North side of the town. there were some 200 Rebs in the town but they left in a hurry.

March 8 Day Rainny. 20 Miles. Moved out at 8 AM and marched by Jerks all day. Crossed 3 creeks that were very bad. In a levle Pine Country. When we went to camp we found that there was a Div of Reb Inft within 40 Rods. we backed off and were cut off from the rest of the Comd and were fired upon from the flanks and we found them strong in front so we had to go back to another road, worked in the water to fix up the road but got out all right. 3rd Brig were surprised but came out well in end.

March 10 Cleared up today. 20 M. Got to camp at 1 PM after joining the 3d B, found that they had been fighting hard, the enemy surprising them⁷. Cos B F & H on picket and the command moving at Dark. we with 2 Cos of the 9 Ohio were Rear Guard. Some men were shot while marching in the command. The Commd went into camp at Midnight. Rear guard on picket.

March 11. Day Clear. Were relieved at 9 AM and marched to within 1 mile of Fayettevill then went 7 miles out on a plank road and camped at 5 PM.

March 12 Day fair. In camp. Went 4 miles after horse forage. The Chaplain Preached in the evening.

March 13 Day Fine. In Camp. Communication opened with Gen Terry. a mail went out. Drew Rations a little coffee and Hd Tack. Made weekly report 28 E Men for duty, 2 Color Guard, 3 Unequipped, 3 Daily duty. A. W. & L. D. Herington went to Div. Train.

March 14 Day Cloudy. in Camp. Recieved orders to march but they were countermanded until 3 AM tomorrow.

March 15 Rained hard. 20 Miles. Passed through Fayetteville. Started at 1 AM and crossed the river at day light and marched 14 miles. Ran into the Reb Inft had a skirmish. Lay behind the Baracades until 11 PM then moved to the right and camped. One Brig of 20 AC relieved us at 11 PM. O Sturtevant lost horse and all equipment. HdGts Guard tonight.

March 16 Day showry. 3 Miles. One Brig of Inft and the 1st

7. Engagement, Monroe's Cross Roads, March 10, 1865. Kilpatrick had camped on the edge of a swamp but had posted no pickets to protect his rear. The Confederates learned this and attacked at daybreak, putting the entire camp to flight in a few minutes. Kilpatrick's headquarters were taken but he escaped, rallied his men and retook the camp.

Brig moved out and attacked the enemy but did not gain anything. The 1st Brig lost heavy. We moved up to suport them but were not engaged.⁸ Went out 8 miles after forage got very little. 20th & 14 Corps moved on after the Rebs. Captured 2 Peaces of Artillery.

March 17 Day Fair 6 Miles. Moved out at 8 AM when we got to the Creek the dam was Broken and they had to build a bridge. The 1st Mic Engr built it. We crossed the road the 14 AC were marching on and Camped. The 2nd Bat went out with the Bat. Waggon to get forage. The dam was across Black Creek.

March 18 15 Miles. Started at 8 AM 3rd Brig in advance. they had some Skirmishing. At noon the 2nd Brig went in front 92nd in advance. crossed Mingo Creek. crossing bad. Bat. Mired. 92nd got to Camp at 4 PM. the rest of Brig did not get in until Sundown.

March 19 Day Clear. 18 miles. Moved out at 8 AM and traveled by jerks 92nd in Rear of every thing. Stopped and fed at noon. heavy fireing in our front.⁹ Camped 2 miles in Rear of the fighting. Cos F and H on Picket. The 14th & 20th AC were engaged and had a hard fight.

March 20 Were relieved at 2 PM. found the Regt crowded up in a very small space. Not much fighting today. Went out after forage. J. B. Whiteley detailed to go to Div HdQts. 7 Non Com for duty. 20 Privates for duty, 2 Color Guard, 3 unequiped, 3 daily duty.

March 21 Day cloudy. In Camp. Done nothing all day. Rations scarce. Made Weekly Report. Reported 25 horses.

March 22 Day very Windy. 8 Miles. Moved out at sunup and relieved the skirmishers of the 20 AC. found the enemy had left our front. marched East on the Goldsboro Road. Camped at Hubles Corners. 10 Men went out after forage and did not get back tonight.

March 23 Day Clear and Windy. 18 M. Started at 7 AM on the Clinton Road. Stopped and fed at noon. Went out after forage got Meat & Meal. Camped a little over 1 mile from Clinton the County seat of Sampson Co. J. Burkhart Sick.

March 24 Day Clear and windy. In Camp. Went out in Coun-try 1 mile. Woods on fire all arround and trees falling all the time sounded like cannonading. Wm H Clayton, J Burkhart, Wallace Brown sick.

March 25 7 Miles. Started at 9 AM and marched toward War-saw on the RR. Onley (9) Nine Guns in Co H today. Forage plenty.

March 26 Day Clear. Marched 3 miles toward Warsaw and camped. Co H on Picket. Went out after forage. Saw a train of Cars.

8. Battle of Averysborough, March 16, 1865.

9. Battle of Bentonville, N. C., March 19-21, 1865.

March 27 Day fine. Went out on the Wilmington Road after forage. Went to Taylors Brige on Black river. Co Relieved at Noon. Got in at sundown.

March 28 Day warm. Fixed up camp to stay some time. got orders to move at 3 PM and marched 10 miles. The Boys got in with horses.

March 29 Day fine. Moved camp and fixed up to stop a while. Walters and I went after forage.

March 30 In camp. Started a letter home¹⁰. 3 Sergts, 4 Corps for Duty. 20 Privates for Duty, 3 Sick, 3 on Daily Duty, 2 Color Guard, 3 Teamsters, 1 Orderly at R QM.

April 1 through April 8 In Camp.

Camp near Mt. Olive, N. C.

Aprile 6, 1865

Dear Friends,

I have recd two letters from you since writing my last letter the last one bearing date of Mar 23rd. I am very glad that I get them so regular. hope you will rec mine. My health is very good and all of Co H that are here are well. I was in hopes when we came to this place we would stop for some time but we have orders to march some time in the latter part of next week on a new campaign destination unknown but suposed to be toward Richmond.

We have been hearing rumors of Peace. hope they are true and that we will not have to go on another campaign. We are getting along very nicely in camp and have not got very much duty to do. Our Co Desks have not come up yet and I dont expect we will get our pay here as we cant make out the pay rolls without the Desks.

Mr. Lyon just came from the hospital. his eyes are almost well. He heard from Bob Reeves. he is well and a prisoner. We just got the news that Richmond was ours. Also to be ready to march at any moment. There was some cheering.

I have had no letter from Ohio since we left Savannah. dont know what is the reason. We expect a mail in today so I will not close this until the mail comes. I must get Dinner. Well: Dinner is over dishes washed and I will write a little again. I have been interrupted several times already in writing this short letter. By Mr. Lyon comming, the news and dinner. I cooked dinner myself. Mr. Lyon ate with us. I baked a corn pone, fried Ham and then we had coffee and Honey. Pretty good fare for a Soldier.

The 25 A.C. are camped on the RR near us. they are all colored

10. The letter mentioned here was either destroyed or not received. There are no letters covering Sgt. Cort's movements through the Carolinas for this period, only his terse diary entries.

troops. I am going over to see them this afternoon as I have never seen the darkies drill. They belong to Gen Terrys command. There is going to be a large army Sherman this time. This old army has recruited some beside Schofield & Terrys commands. In all it will amount to over 125,000 men, I think. The Cav have not been reenforced yet. I hear we are to take the right of the army this time and that communication will be kept open this time so that you will be kept posted as to our whereabouts.

Well! I dont want Joe or Mag to comit Matrimony until I come home now as they have waited this long Nor Sell out until I see the old place again as I will not be fit for any thing but to farm and most to lazy for that. Enclosed you will find a Photograph of Kill—that Croft gave me. We are drawing rations to day. they are giving us more rations than we can use. Good Bye Love to all Ed

Excuse this as I am in no writing mood today. We have got 3 recruits since comming here.

Chapel Hill, Orange County, N.C.
April 19th 1865

Dear Friends,

Ere this letter reaches you you will have heard of the glorious news of Johnstons surrender.¹¹ we recieved the news yesterday. as to the terms I know nothing of them yet. Yet while we rejoice we feel sad over the news from the north of Our beloved Presidents assasination.¹² The whole army mornes his loss. We have heard but little of the particulars. My health is very good and Co H are well. at least all that are present with the Regt. We have recd one mail since we left Camp. I got one letter. Was glad.

Our Brig (2nd) is here alone. the rest of the Div is on our right some 10 miles Distant. We left our old Camp on the 10th of this month. saw no enemy until the 12th When the 92d were in the advance. We had just crossed a bridge when they charged the advance guard and drove them back on to us. we were in column in the road and had no time to form but just charged back and routed them. they made a stubborn stand behind a barracade but we run them out. It was Hamptons Crack Brig but Our Reg drove them alone.

at the RR they made a strong stand to get a Locomotive away that was below but a Co was sent on each flank and we drove them across the track capturing the Locomotive. there was an ex Govenor

11. Gen. J. E. Johnston signed an armistice with Sherman, April 18, 1865, and surrendered April 26, 1865.

12. President Lincoln was assassinated April 14, 1865.

and 2 Cols on the Car. Co H Struck the RR first. There was two men killed and five wounded in the Regt none in Co H hurt.¹³

Next day the 3rd Brig was in advance and had some sharp skirmishing.¹⁴ In the evening Sergt Kershaw went out on a Scout with a squad when a bat. of rebs pitched into them shot Kershaws horse and captured him. the rest of the boys got away by hard riding. On the 15 we took one road and the rest of the Div took another. On the 16th we had to build two bridges over creeks. Our Regt built them. we were in water knee deep and some few got ducked.

On the 17th we came to this place. The N. C. University is situated here.¹⁵ It is a very pretty Villiage. the country is high and rolling. Dont know wheather we will stop here any length of time or not. Would like to go home now as soon as posible. think that the fighting is all over. We see a great many of Lee's men going to their homes. they are tired of fighting and say they will never go back if they are exchanged. Everything is running right to settle the question now. I will close for this time.

Love to all from

Ed

I will have some yarns to spin If I get back all right.

Chapel Hill N. C. April 30th/65

Dear Friends,

It has been longer than usual since I have written to you. my onley excuse is carelessness as we have been here ever since and not doing much. We were all ready to move on the enemy on last Wednesday again but Johnston came to terms so we did not go. Hampton did not Surrender.¹⁶ he disbanded his men and let them go Home and he is now branded as an Outlaw but I think that he and all of his men that want to fight any more will go West of the Mississippi as he has enough of the 3rd Div. Wheeler took 2500 men and went with Jeff Davis as an Escort across the Mississippi. Rumors say that he took 3,000,000 in gold with him.

The last order that Sherman issued was to the Effect that the Army of the Cumberland (20th & 14 AC Slocum) and the Army of Tenn (15 & 17AC) Howards) was to march to Richmond. Scoefield with the 23 and 10 AC'S and Kilpatrick's Cavalry were to stay here and this is to be called the Dept of N. C. So we will stay here and hunt bushwhackers. But it is onley 4 months and no fighting.

13. Skirmish near Raleigh, N. C., April 12, 1865.

14. Occupation of Raleigh, N. C., April 13. Diary comment, "Passed through Raleigh at 10 AM. It is a very pretty place."

15. The University buildings were used as quarters by the officers and their horses were stabled in the library. In spite of this, damage to the University was estimated at about \$100.

16. Confederate General Wade Hampton.

Well I forgot to tell you that I am very well onley the Fleas bother me some. The Co are well likewise. Sim R and two other recruits came to the Co yesterday. Mag I wish I could toss you the splendid Boquett that is on the Desk in front of me. I know you have no flowers as nice yet in your frozen clime. Roses, Red and White Bleeding Heart's and I dont know the names for the rest. This is realy a pretty place but I dont like the people. I was to hear a Presbyterian Preacher preach last Sabbath and am going to hear Prof Somebody preach this after noon in the College Chapel.

Gen Kilpatrick reviewed our Brig Yesterday. we made a pretty good appearance but I dont want to see any thing military any more when the fighting is over. I think we are in a very health country as it is very high and Rolling and the water is good. I think we will move farthur north in about 10 days toward Greensboro. We are now 14 miles from the RR Station Durham where the Rest of the Div are.

I have had no mail for some time. hope I will get a letter today. write often as your letters are very interesting to me and make me feel good after getting them. I have nothing to write about. the dull routine of camp life makes one a poor correspondent to *intelegent persons*.

Good Bye

Ed

PS I forgot to offer my symphies with Uncle and Joe in their political defeat.

Concord, N. C. May 19th, 1865

Dear Friends,

I have neglected writing longer than I should because I was looking for a letter from home. but the mail does not come. We have had no regular mail since coming to this place. My health is good. the rest of the boys are well also.

We left Chapel Hill on the 3rd and camped at Hillsboro that night. Reached Greensboro on the 5 and stopped until the 7th. saw the artillery that was turned over by Johnston. There was several of the English Neutrality Guns among them. There were a great number of sick and wounded Rebs in the hospitals. It seemed odd to meet Reb Regts on the road and not fight them. They are well satisfied that the fighting is over and they can go to their homes.

Left Greensboro on the 7th and arrived at Lexington stayed there until the 11. Passed throug Salisbury and arrived at this place (Concord) on the 12th. We have a fine camp and every thing

fixed up in good shape. There are 3 Regts of Our Brig here. Div HdQs are at Lexington 21 miles north of this place. I think this is a healthy place for this climate.

We have very little duty to do. There was 50 picked men went out on some kind of an expedition five days ago. They have not returned yet. they went out side of this state on a secret mission. I recieved a letter from Keoghs just before I left Chaple Hill. I have not answered it yet but will soon. I am very lazy about writing lately. In fact I dislike soldiering in times of peace. Time passes very slow in camp. There are a great many Rumors about our getting home before our time is out. but I think it is doubtful as Killpatrick wants to keep all of this Div together as long as he can.

I have nothing to write. news is scarce and uninteresting. Hope the mail will get through soon. think it has gone to Sherman's army. I will close this time hoping you will not write as short a letter to me.

Ed

(Diary) May 22 Capt Nelson Went to Div HdQtrs at Lexington to attend a Court Martial. The Scout that went out 9 Days ago returned.

June 6 Muster out Roll came today.

June 22 Started at 7 AM for the Depot Proceeded by the band. The Train was not there. Started at 8½PM and traveled Slow all night. Gen Atkins Joined us at Lexington.

June 23 Arrived at Greensboro at 6 AM. Went out and got breakfast. found there was two Regts ahead of us the 177 Ohio and the 69 Ind. Lay around all day. Walked over the town. Camped for the night.

June 24 Started at nine AM and arrived at Danville Va. after a slow run of 48 miles at 3 PM. No Transportation ready for us. Went over the town. It is very prettily situated on the Dan River and is a true Virginia town and very well situated.

June 25 Revillie at 3 AM ready to start at 4 but did not until 9 AM. stoped within 11 miles of the Jnct and waited until a train passed us. the rest of the road was strap rail and we were over two hours going 11 miles. The boys cleaned out a sutler. Arrived at Burksville Junt at 4 PM found no Transportation until tomorrow at 2 PM. Camped in a car.

June 26 Day showery. Started for City Point at 2 PM and after a steady run arrived there at 8½ PM. Passed through Petersburg¹⁷ before dark. it is a very old looking city and shows the affects of the

17. Petersburg, Virginia, a vital communications center, 21 miles from Richmond.

seige. the works are not as strong as I expected to see. We camped in the Street at City Point.

June 27 Day fine and clear. Went on the boat at 5½ AM and started at 6 AM. we have an old Ferry boat. Traveled very slow. Passed Fortress Monroe at 4 PM. Saw wher the Priveteer Florida sunk also wher the Cumberland & Congress sunk. Several men of war were laying. Struck north up the Cheasapeake Bay toward Baltimore.

June 28 Found every thing moving along slowly this morning. Passed Annapolis at noon and arrived at Baltimore at 4 PM. marched to the Harrisburg Depot 1½ miles took super at the soldiers Home. Started for Harrisburgh at 11 PM.

June 29 Arrived at Harrisburg at 11 AM and changed cars started for Pittsburgh immediatly. Passed along through a very fine country. Arrived at Altona at 6 PM and stopped 3 hours. Saw Cousin Cyrus Cort.

June 30 Arrived at Pittsburgh at 11 AM and got Dinner in the City Hall. We gave the citizens three cheers. Started for Chicago at 2 PM. Traveled fast.

July 1 Were within 130 miles of Chicago this AM. Arrived in Chicago at 3 PM and went to Camp Douglas without going to the City.

July 2 No chance to get pay for several days. Started for Rochele at 8:20 an arrived there at Midnight.

July 3 Stopped at Mc_____. Boyd Mc took me home found them all Well and well Pleased.

July 4 Day very pleasant. Went to Lane¹⁸ in the morning took Dinner at Dr. Mc . Went home after night. Saw many of my acquaintances.

July 5 Left Home for Lane at noon and started for Chicago at 3:20 PM. Arrived in Chicago at dark and went to Camp.

July 6 Went to town at noon got back at 3 PM and signed the Pay Rolls. Went to Woods Museum.

July 7 Went to town in the fornoon and stayed all day. Went to hear Budworths Minstrels.

18. Rochelle, Illinois. Name was changed from Lane to Rochelle in 1865.

Co H¹ 92nd Ills.

Rank

Capt John F. Nelson
1st Lt John F. Nettleton
2nd Lt Crawford B. Bowles
1st Sergt Charles E. Cort
2nd Sergt Peter T. Kershaw
3d Erekiel Pettit
4th Stephen T. Cooper
5th John S. Lee
1st Corp Wm W. Walters
2nd James W. Starkey
3d Jerard Hill
4th Thomas Brice
5 Jame Ritchie
6th Corp Hiram A. Hyde
7th Wm N. Irvine
8th Richard Gifford

Privates

Waggoner Adolphus Drakeman
Muscian Perren Lyon

Privates

1 Samuel W. Burton
2 John Burkhart
3 Wm Bailey
4 Geo. C. Brace
5 John Brown
6 Wallace Brown
7 David Boyle
8 Wm B Bailey
9 John N Brown
10 W. K. Bowers
11 W. H. Clayton
12 Jesse Conaway
13 David Creasy
14 E R Devott
15 John B Doctor
16 Wm B Earll
17 Cyrus Eyster
18 John Farnham

19 Stephen Flynn
20 Chas R Fuller
21 Floyd Gay
22 James Gifford
23 D P Garnhart
24 Ed A Hurd

Rank

Privates

25 Albert Herrick
26 John Holford
27 John Herinton
28 L D Herinton
29 A W Herinton
30 Jonas Hanna
31 Warden Hathaway
32 John M Hendricks
33 Henry Jackson
34 Mahlon D Kooker
35 Robert Mills
36 Stephen Moore
37 Leonard Mino
38 Jacob Miere
39 Harvey Millard
40 Benjamin Noe
41 James Oroke
42 Edwin Lewis
43 Hiram S. Oaks
44 Mathius Parker
45 Robert Reeves
46 John Reiley
47 Orin Sturtevant
48 Jester Shy
49 Harvey Schemehorn
50 A B Seclar
51 F W Steuben
52 Cyrus E Thayer
53 A F Tilton
54 Geo W Tilton
55 James E Virgile
56 J. N. Willis
57 John B Whitley

58	Collins B. Willey	65	O. B. Tilton
59	C B Jewell	66	D. D. Culver
60	Stephen Van Bramer	67	S Reynolds
61	Richard Walters	68	Preston K Hill
62	A W Launsing	69	Sylvester Youker
63	John Davis	70	Francis Holford
64	C. P. Tilton	71	John Royce

1. List not dated but probably drawn up about November, 1864.

CONCLUSION

After his discharge from the Army, Mr. Cort returned to the family farm in Lee County, Illinois, and later moved to another farm in Ogle County near Rochelle (formerly Lane) in 1867.

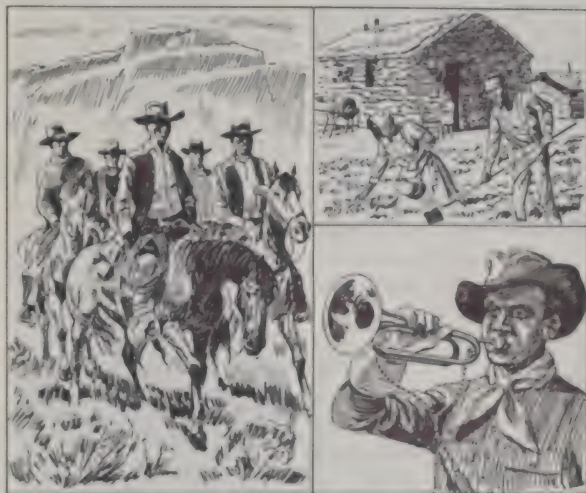
Family responsibilities and the desire to see his younger brothers and sister receive the education he and Joe had been forced to forego kept him at home until that goal was reached. Neither he nor Joe married until 1876, Ed in February to Susan Maria Vaile and Joe in June to Martha Shaw of Pennsylvania.

In 1883 Joe moved his family back to Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, and entered the real estate business. Sister Maggie never married but became a missionary for the Presbyterian Church, doing mission work in Utah and in the Kentucky mountains. The two younger brothers, Will and Arthur, both became Presbyterian ministers.

Poor health plagued Ed Cort for the rest of his adult life. He blamed the strenuous war years and the continued exposure and sleeping on cold, wet ground for his ailments. In 1883 he and his wife and two small daughters left Illinois, journeyed to California with a team and light wagon in search of a better climate and relief from his heart trouble. They decided against settling there, returned to file a homestead claim in Hand County, South Dakota, and later moved to St. Lawrence, South Dakota, where he operated his own drug store. He had studied pharmacy by correspondence and was granted the No. 3 pharmacist's license in the Territory of the Dakotas. He was later elected a delegate to the Territorial Congress which helped frame the South Dakota state constitution and was instrumental in achieving adoption of the state's "dry clause."

In 1889 he moved to Huron, South Dakota, and was a druggist there until his retirement on July 1, 1902. He died August 3, 1903, survived by his wife, four daughters and two sons.

Telenews



FREE MEN AND WILD COUNTRY

Cowboy Bose Ikard learned to handle horses, guns and cattle long before he was a free man. Then, as soon as the Civil War ended, he helped blaze one of the first cattle trails over the frontier . . .

Mountain man Jim Beckwourth was the son of a Negro slave. He became one of the best trappers, scouts and Indian fighters in the West . . .

For twenty years, wrangler Jim Perry rode all the long trails and drove cattle through Kansas and Nebraska to the Dakota ranges . . .

Although they are rarely mentioned in frontier history, Ikard, Beckwourth

and Perry — and many other Negro frontiersmen — helped to open the American West.

For a time their role was nearly forgotten, but records indicate that there were thousands of Negroes, both slave and free, on the frontier.

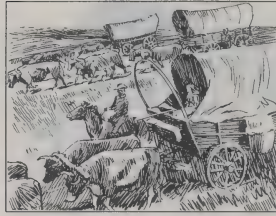
These men handled the same jobs and shared the same dangers as all the early Westerners, doing no more and no less than pioneers of other races and nationalities.

They explored the mountains and plains, fought Indians, searched for gold, homesteaded, and hunted for wild horses and buffalo. Some were outlaws

(continued page 2)

FREE MEN *(continued)*

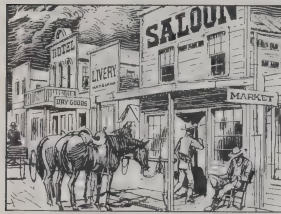
and some were law officers. Thousands rode in the cavalry, and thousands more worked as trappers, ranch hands and unskilled laborers.



From Texas alone, according to one account, more than five thousand Negro cowboys rode to freedom after the Civil War.

Trailing to Deadwood

Like most frontiersmen, many of these cowboys were transients. They drove cattle to rough and rowdy towns such as Abilene and Dodge City in Kansas, Ogallala in Nebraska, and Deadwood City in South Dakota.



They were a familiar part of all the early cow-towns. They stood in the saloons, slept in the jails, and carried gold through outlaw country. Some were too slow with guns, some too fast. Among them were some of the best

riders, ropers and wranglers on the plains.

There were many pioneers—black, brown, red and white—who deserve to be remembered for their adventurous spirit, their courage, and their persistent quest for new horizons. This is part of the great American story—a story about all the men who lived and worked together to forge a land of opportunity and freedom.

SPECIAL FOOTNOTE

This TELENEWS story is based on information from The Negro Cowboys, published by the Dodd - Mead Company of New York, and written by Philip Durham and Everett L. Jones. Mr. Jones, a native of the Upper Midlands, was born in Huron, South Dakota and is now a member of the English faculty at the University of California.

February Puzzle

A snail who wanted to "get away from it all" took a trip up a flag pole. He got half way up the first day; a third of the remainder the second day; then climbed a 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th of the distance remaining on the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th days respectively. On the 7th day he climbed two feet, four inches and reached the top. How high was the pole?

(Answer, Page 4)

TELEPHONE BELLES

Whether they buzz, bong, or sound like sirens, alarm clocks just don't wake one businessman in Minnesota. He's a heavy sleeper.

So every morning, to make sure he's up on time, he gets a "rise and shine" phone call at 6:30—and again at 6:45—from a telephone answering firm.

Waking sleepy people is all part of the day's work for operators at telephone answering bureaus. They have a motto: "If it can be done by phone, we do it."

Today, these private answering firms (not part of the telephone company) operate in many Upper Midlands communities.

Who uses them? Just about everyone who needs to be available to the public by phone at all hours: lawyers, repair services, salesmen, insurance adjusters, doctors—the list is long.

Many Jobs

Within any working hour, an answering firm operator may handle dozens of phone calls for clients.

In addition, she may check with night watchmen . . . monitor wired music systems . . . provide ski information . . . and take orders for department stores and mail order houses.

"Alarm lights" help answering firms keep tabs on temperatures in com-

mercial freezers, greenhouses, hatcheries and Red Cross Blood banks.



Each client, each situation is different . . . but versatile telephone answering firms have the "answers".

According to one operator, whose firm caters exclusively to doctors, "It's a fascinating and challenging job. At any time, I may have to make appointments, arrange lab tests, relay prescriptions, and reassure patients."

Telephone answering firms handle all sorts of "odd jobs." But most of all, they have the answer—24 hours a day—for those who want to be "in" when they're away from their phone.

HELPFUL LINE

If you've discovered how much faster you can find numbers in the telephone directory once you've circled or underlined them, you may want to pass the idea along to the whole family.

It is a helpful line, makes the number easy to refer to when you're dialing . . . easier to look up the next time you need it.

TELEPHONE DOG

When Minnesota telephone man Ed Stahl goes out on his daily rounds, he sometimes takes along an assistant. His helper (who comes in doggone handy at times) is a purebred retriever named Goldie.

Ninety pounds of power, Goldie discourages less friendly pooches when Ed makes calls in unfamiliar territory. Goldie also acts as a shuttle service for mail and messages between Stahl at the office and his wife at home.

The dedicated dog has lent a hand (or paw) on some tough communications jobs, too. When flood waters washed out phone lines at Jackson last year, he swam across a raging river, carrying the new lines that Ed needed to restore telephone service.



For his actions "on" and "off" the job, Goldie was presented the Golden Lassie Award recently by a network television program. A medal accompanying the Award says: "To Goldie . . . for giving

. . . TELENEWS - February, 1967 . . . issued monthly for its customers by the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company. Please address your communications to the Company's business office.

a new meaning to the tradition that man's best friend is his dog."

TAX FACTS

Public protection, roads, schools, national defense — these are just a few of the things that receive support from state and federal taxes paid by Northwestern Bell.

Last year, out of each dollar that N W B collected from telephone users in Minnesota, 29 cents went to pay taxes.

Northwestern Bell believes in paying its share of taxes because all citizens have this responsibility. Telephone tax dollars have important jobs to do.

Ups and Downs

Of course, taxes become a part of the cost of furnishing telephone service . . . and taxes are *up*. This means N W B people must, as always, apply research and seek more efficient tools and improved methods in order to hold *down* the rate telephone users pay.

Cost of living comparisons and other studies over the years indicate this result: today, the average family's phone bill is a considerably smaller part of the household budget than it used to be.

Puzzle Answer

16 feet, 4 inches. *For a complete solution, call or write the telephone business office.*

670101 M

Willis H. Miller
P. O. Box 147
Hudson, Wis. 54016

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